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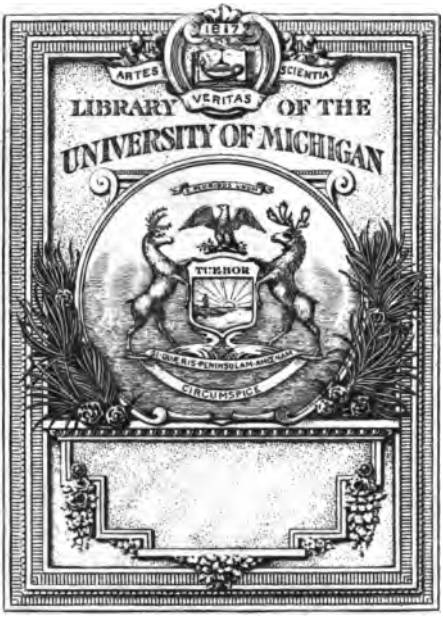
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MEMOIRS

OF

Elizabeth Farneſio,

THE PRESENT

Queen Dowager of *SPAIN.*

CONTAINING

Her Intrigues and Ambitious Views, from the Year 1714, in which ſhe was married to *PHILIP* V. King of *Spain*, till the Year 1746, in which that Monarch died.

TOGETHER

With the Alarms occaſioned in ſeveral Courts of *Europe*, and the Civil Wars attempted to be kindled by her Means, in *England* and *France*; With her Famous Scheme for carrying the Duke of *Orleans* Priſoner from *Verſailles* to *Segovia*, and many other Important Paſſages not known in the Hiſtories of thoſe Times.

Tranſlated from a Spaniſh MANUSCRIPT.

LONDON:

Printed by T. GARDNER, and Sold at his Printing-Office, at *Cowley's-Head*, oppoſite St. *Clement's-Church*, in the *Strand*. 1746.

Entered in the Hall-Book.

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MEMOIRS

OF

Elizabeth Farneſio, &c.

PHILIP V. late King of *Spain*, and Grandſon to *Lewis* XIV. of *France*, was twelve Years and a half married to *Mary Louiſa Gabriela*, Daughter of *Victor-Amadeus*, Duke of *Savoy*, and afterwards King of *Sardinia*. The Life of this Princeſs was a continued Scene of Troubles and Cares, on account of the Wars kindled in *Spain*; whoſe Crown was warmly diſputed by the Houſe of *Auſtria* and her Allies, againſt that of *Bourbon*, till the late Emperor *Charles* VI. was called to the Imperial Throne: The Queen, however, concealed her Chagrin from the Eyes of the Public,

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with a Greatneſs of Soul equal to her Birth: But the tender Conſtitution of her Body ſuffered all the while; which greatly impaired her Health, and threw her into a languiſhing Diſorder, of which ſhe died on the 14th of *February*, *N. S.* 1715, in the twenty-ſixth Year of her Age, leaving Iſſue Don *Lewis* *, Don *Vendome*, and Don *Ferdinand*.

France and *Spain* were preparing to reduce the *Catalans* with their joint Forces, when this young Queen died. The Project was ſoon effected by the Valour and Conduct of the Duke of *Berwick*, which alleviated, in ſome meaſure, the deep Sorrow the reſt of the *Spaniſh* Nation was plunged into for the Loſs

* This Don *Lewis*, on the Abdication of King *Philip* his Father, in the Year 1724, ſucceeded to the *Spaniſh* Monarchy, which he did not poſſeſs long; for in the following Year he was carried off, after a few Days Illneſs: The true Cauſe of which was never diſcovered, though there were not wanting ſome who imputed his ſudden Death to the ambitious Views of a Step-Mother, who, by putting this young and promiſing Prince out of the way, before he could have any Iſſue by his Queen, the Princeſs of *Montpenſier*, and Daughter to the late Duke of *Orleans*, Regent of *France*, to whom he was married in *March* 1723, left but one Life more between Don *Carlos*, her eldeſt Son, now King of *Naples* and *Sicily*, and the Crown of *Spain*; that was Don *Ferdinand*, *Vendome* being dead ſome Years before.

Loſs of ſo pious a Princeſs, which they thought then could not eaſily be repaired. But as this Conqueſt had reſtored Peace to *Spain*, and given Reſpite to the King from the Hurry and Confuſion of War and Arms, the Succeſs of which is always doubtful, his Miniſters and Courtiers were now at leiſure to form new Projects, more pleaſing and agreeable to his Majeſty, than what the Horrors of War could afford.

Abbé Alberoni, a cunning artful *Italian* Prieſt, who had ſerved the Duke of *Vendome* as Chaplain, during his Campaigns in *Italy*, followed that General into *France* and *Spain*, and through the Credit he had with *Vendome* inſinuated himſelf into the Eſteem of thoſe who were *Philip* the fifth's Favourites. The King being of a healthy Conſtitution, made it very probable that he would not remain long a Widower. *Alberoni* bore an implacable Antipathy to the Houſe of *Auſtria*, which recommended him to the *Spaniards*; and now he ſtudies to diſtreſs that Houſe, and to aggrandize the Duke of *Parma*, whoſe Subject he was, and born of mean Parents at *Placentia*. He concluded, that an Alliance between King *Philip*, and the Family of *Farneſio*, would furniſh his Catholic Majeſty with an Opportunity of reviving and

improving thoſe Rights which the Peace of *Utrecht* had ſtripped him of.

The Situation of the *Spaniſh* Monarch's Affairs, at this Juncture, were ſuch, as that he could not have loſt Sight of the *French* Succeſſion, he being the firſt Prince of the Blood, then living, of the Houſe of *Bourbon*, and but one ſickly Minor that prevented his aſcending the *Gallic* Throne, though he had renounced it in the moſt ſolemn Manner. On the other hand, it would be prudent and juſt in his Miniſters and Counſellors to procure a Match between *Philip* and the eldeſt of the Arch-Dutcheſſes, Daughters of the Emperor *Leopold*; for ſuch a Marriage would confirm their Maſter in the peaceable Poſſeſſion of his Dominions. But this was neglected; and Cardinal *del Giudici*, who was then Prime Miniſter, and the Princeſs of *Urſinos*, both whom having engroſſed the King's Confidence, and governed him by turns, thought of nothing elſe but to ſecure themſelves in their high Stations, and unrivalled; a Thing not to be hoped for from a new Queen and her Train of Favourites, if the King ſhould marry, as they found afterwards by Experience.

The

The Princeſs of *Urſinos* was of an antient *Roman* Family, and Aunt to the preſent Duke of *Gravina* and *Urſinos*, of the Kingdom of *Naples*. She came to *Spain* along with the Princeſs *Mary Louiſa Gabriela*, the late Queen of *Spain*, and was her chief Favourite. Upon the Queen's Death, *Philip* declared her Governeſs of the Princes his Sons, which gave her an Opportunity of ſeeing his Majeſty every Day. She uſed all her Endeavours to mitigate his Sorrows with great Addreſs, which was natural to her. This gave Birth to a Report, that ſhe flattered herſelf with nothing leſs than the Throne; and artfully ſtudied to accommodate herſelf wholly to the King's Temper and Humour, the better to gain her Point.

As Secrecy contributes ſurprizingly towards bringing all political Schemes to Maturity and Perfection, *Alberoni* having reflected on his Scheme, and all it's Conſequences, he communicated it only to the Duke of *Parma*, his Lord and Maſter; who, as all the World has ſeen, readily gave into it. The Princeſs of *Parma* was a young Lady of an extraordinary Judgment and Underſtanding, full of Vivacity, had a perfect Knowledge of the Affairs of *Europe*, and poſſeſſed many other diſtinguiſhing Qualities, in an eminent Degree.

The Duke her Uncle, who then reigned in *Parma* and *Placentia*, foreſeeing the Obſtacles that might be laid by other Powers to this Match, and the Troubles which have ſince happened in *Europe* on the Account thereof, reſolved to keep this Grand Affair in *petto*, till every thing ſhould be ripe for a Declaration of ſuch a Marriage, by the King of *Spain*, if he ſhould approve of the Scheme. However, he ſent Credentials to *Alberoni*, whom he appointed his Miniſter at the *Spaniſh* Court, with Inſtructions to bring his Plan to Perfection with all Diligence.

Pope *Paul* III. whilſt Marquis of *Parma* and *Placentia*, abdicated his States in favour of his next Heir, took Holy Orders, and was at laſt raiſed to the Tripple Crown. The *Roman* Pontiffs have, ever ſince, pretended to have a Paternal Love and Regard for the *Farneſio* Family. It was not therefore to be doubted but *Clement* XI. who at this Time filled St. *Peter*'s Chair, would approve of a Match between that Family and a crowned Head, whoſe Intereſt had ever been dear to him: And it was no leſs to be queſtioned that he would omit nothing for the Succeſs of the projected Marriage, becauſe it muſt have reſulted great Luſtre on the Holy See, to place the Daughter of one of her Vaſſals upon

upon a Throne; ſo that every thing fore-told the Pope's Approbation and Concurrence, as ſoon as the Matter ſhould be laid before him in Form, which, however, had not then been done.

Before any Overtures were made at *Madrid* relating to this Match, the Holy Father was privately conſulted about it, and anſwered all the Hopes that were conceived of him. *Clement* the XIth recommended it to the Approbation of the *French* King, in a Letter written with his own Hand, and ſent Orders to his Nuncio at *Madrid*, to give *Alberoni* all manner of Aſſiſtance in an Affair, which his Holineſs had greatly at Heart, and would prove of infinite Advantage to the See of *Rome*.

There never was a Pope, ſince *Clement* the VIIth, who was in more difficult Circumſtances than *Clement* XI. found himſelf in at this Juncture; for being unalterably attached to the Intereſt of the Houſe of *Bourbon*, which always claſhed with that of *Auſtria*, he conſtantly oppoſed the Views of the latter. It was very eaſy for him to believe, that a Match with the Preſumptive Heireſs of *Parma* and *Placentia*, which would put the Catholic King in Poſſeſſion of certain

Rights and Claims, and would give *Philip* V. footing again in *Italy*, would alſo enable that Prince to ſerve the Turns of the *Roman* Pontiffs, who only wanted an Opportunity to be revenged for the Invaſion of *Commachio*; the Paſſage of the *German* Troops through the States of the Church; but more particularly for the following *Manifeſto*, which is but an Anſwer to a Bull publiſhed by *Clement*'s Orders, the Purport of which may eaſily be collected from this Piece.

" *Joſeph*, by Divine Clemency, elected " Emperor of the *Romans*, always auguſt, " *&c. &c. &c.* It is well known to all " Men, and demonſtrable from the Courſe " of Affairs in a few Years paſt, with what " extraordinary Care, Labour, and Expence, " the Enemy were expelled *Italy*; and the " Liberty of that Country, which was op- " preſſed by *French* Power, happily reſtored " by the victorious Arms of Us and Our " Allies; that we were fully perſuaded there " could not be one Prince or State in all " *Italy* who could ſuppreſs his Joy for it, " and be averſe to make deſerved Returns of " Affection and Gratitude to Us.

" But We are now conſtrained to take " notice, not without being deeply affected " with

" with Grief, that the Miniſters of the Court " of *Rome* have been ſo far miſled, either by " Diſaffection to Us, or by Views of ſome " private Advantages to themſelves, as to " have taken upon them, to the Aſtoniſh- " ment of all the World, and to the Scandal " of Chriſtendom, to exerciſe Spiritual Au- " thority in Secular Affairs, and to print a " Declaration in Support thereof.

" Upon mature Conſideration of the ſaid " Declaration, and of all and ſingular the " Clauſes therein contained, We cannot but " be extremely concerned to find, that, " among other Things, the Court of *Rome* " ſhould, by arrogating to themſelves a " Sovereignty, as of Right belonging to " them, pretend to aboliſh the moſt antient " Rights of Us and the *Roman* Empire in " *Italy*, together with the Rights thence " accruing to the Dutchy of *Milan*, over " *Parma* and *Placentia*; when, from the " current Tenor of Hiſtory, and from the " Grants of the Inveſtitures given by our " Predeceſſors, the *Roman* Emperors, as " well as from other public Inſtruments, " it is moſt apparent, that the direct, ſu- " preme and ſovereign Dominion over the " ſaid *Parma* and *Placentia*, rightfully be- " longs to no other than to Us, and the

" Sacred

" Sacred *Roman* Empire; and that the law-
" ful Poſſeſſors of the Dutchy of *Milan* are
" inveſted therewith.

" It is not certain, neither can it be made
" appear, that this direct and ſupreme Do-
" minion and reſerved Sovereignty, was ever
" renounced by any Emperor; or that with-
" out the expreſs Conſent of the Emperor
" and Empire, it could be renounced, tranſ-
" ferred, or alienated by the Dukes of *Mi-*
" *lan*, much leſs be validly aſſumed by the
" Court of *Rome*; or be legally acknow-
" ledged by the Dukes of *Parma* to be in
" that Court.

" Many Hiſtorians teſtify this, and, at
" the ſame time, relate particularly and at
" large, what has been conſtantly done in
" this Matter, for aſſerting and maintaining
" the Imperial Rights. Nor need thoſe
" who are well informed of public Affairs
" be told, how ſtrenuouſly our Predeceſſors,
" particularly *Charles* V. of glorious Me-
" mory, preſerved and aſſerted his own and
" the Empire's Rights, not only in the
" Courſe of his Life, but in the Preamble to
" his laſt Will and Teſtament. And be-
" ſides, it is ſufficiently known, that the
" Imperial Rights are incorporated with

" thoſe

" thoſe of the Empire, that they can by no " Means be divided from it, without the " Conſent of all its Members; much leſs be " wreſted and ſeparated from it by Ponti- " fical Bulls, againſt their Conſent, tho' big " with never ſo great Menaces of Fulmina- " tion.

" The Attempts therefore of the Popes, to " aſſume to themſelves a Power of Judging " in their own Cauſe, and by vertue of " ſuch kind of Bulls, to arrogate to them- " ſelves the Rights of a third Perſon, were " vain, and hardly deſerved to be anſwered, " otherwiſe than by Contempt.

" It cannot well be imagined what the Court " of *Rome* could mean, when they affirmed, in " the aforeſaid Declaration, that our Troops " had invaded the Lands of the Church; " when they knew, or at leaſt ought to have " known, that they were Fiefs belonging " to Us and the Empire, on which thoſe " Troops were quartered; and that the Law " of Nature and Nations does ſo far allow " them neceſſary Subſiſtance, that even in " a Neutral Territory, they might juſtly de- " mand and take Proviſions, when, for that " Subſiſtance, thoſe who furniſh it are de-

" fended

" fended and preſerved from greater hoſtile
" Damage and Danger.

" No Man can be ignorant, that thoſe
" Circumſtances happened in this Caſe; and
" that according to the Canons, Laws, and
" Reaſons of State, the Clergy themſelves
" are obliged for maintaining of Peace and
" Liberty, to ſhare the common Burthens;
" eſpecially in that Province, where this an-
" tient Cuſtom of contributing in common,
" to Military Expences, has been always ob-
" ſerved; and where the Clergy of *Parma*
" have ſuch large Poſſeſſions, that more than
" a fourth Part of the whole Dutchy is in
" their Hands. It ill became the Clergy,
" therefore, who abounded in Affluence,
" while the reſt of the People were indigent,
" to ſhew themſelves ſo tenacious of their
" Money; to refuſe, tho' earneſtly ſollicited
" by our Imperial Commiſſary, to part with
" a Penny in Concurrence with the Laity,
" and to perſiſt refractorily and obſtinately
" in their Reſolution, notwithſtanding our
" ſaid Commiſſary gave an illuſtrious Proof
" of Reverence to the Holy See, by in-
" ſerting in the Agreement he concluded,
" That the Pope ſhould have the Honour
" of giving his Conſent to the Sums ſti-
" pulated

" pulated for the common Neceſſity and " Benefit.

" We ſee Examples of the Court of " *Rome*'s Behaviour, in the like Caſes of " Taxes and Contributions laid on the Cler- " gy; and obſerve them to carry them- " ſelves in a very different Manner towards " our Enemies; though, as Diſturbers of the " common Liberty of *Europe*, they deſerve " no Favour: And yet, to them, that Court " does either immediately give its Aſſent, " tho' often againſt common Juſtice; or " does ſo indulge and connive at their Ex- " tortions, that the partial Animoſity with " which we are attacked, in the Sight of all " the World, with the utmoſt Licence, in our " Own and the Empire's Rights, by Speech, " Printing, and open Facts, which would, " long ago, have excited us to ſhew Our " Reſentment, had not the innate Goodneſs " of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, and other Con- " ſiderations, with reſpect to the Holy " Church, prevented us.

" And we would willingly continue yet " further to ſhew our Patience, however " provoked from the Beginning of our Im- " perial Reign, were any longer Forbear- " ance to vindicate our own Rights, and

" the

" the Rights of the Empire, excuſable; or
" could we, in ſo doing, be excuſable to
" God and Poſterity. But at preſent, be-
" ing urged to the contrary, by the Laws
" Divine and Human, Right, Reaſon, the
" Law of Nations, and other Principles of
" Juſtice and Piety:

" Having all theſe for our Support; hav-
" ing alſo taken the Advice of our Privy
" Counſellors, and of our whole Imperial
" *Aulic* Council; and alſo conſulted foreign
" Divines, and Men learned in the Canon and
" Civil Laws, in Defence of our Own and
" the Empire's Rights;

" We declare the ſaid Bull, or Declara-
" tion, void, null, and of no Effect; and
" that the Excommunication therein ex-
" preſſed, or any other of the like Nature,
" that is, or can be pretended, ought to be
" deemed invalid, becauſe it evidently ap-
" pears to have been, and to be deficient of
" the Cauſes requiſite; namely, mortal Sin;
" Contumacy in a notorious Error, previous
" Citation of the Perſons, *&c.* And be-
" cauſe the Bull aforeſaid appears as evi-
" dently not to tend to the Defence of the
" Lord's Inheritance, but to the abſolute
" Uſurpation of the Imperial Rights over

" the

" the Dutchies of *Parma* and *Placentia*, " *&c. &c. &c.*"

For theſe Reaſons, it was abſolutely neceſſary to keep this intended Marriage very ſecret, leſt the Houſe of *Auſtria* ſhould find Means to prevent it.

But to return. This Diſpoſition of Pope *Clement* towards the Houſe of *Auſtria*, proved very ſerviceable to the Houſe of *Parma* on this ſignal Occaſion. His Holineſs's Nuncio at *Madrid* was very active in the Affair. *Alberoni* was not idle; for the *French* King having conſtantly certain Perſons at the Court of *Spain*, who were his Creatures, and ſent from time to time to *Madrid*, to direct all Affairs there, according to the Views of the *Gallic* Court, and to give an Account of every Thing that paſſed in the *Spaniſh* Councils and Cabinet; *Alberoni*, by his Addreſs, procured himſelf to be admitted into this political Cabal, by Means of the Duke of *Parma*, who had heartily recommended him to *Lewis* XIV. and gave him the Character of a lively, enterprizing Perſon, which all *Europe* found him afterwards to be: Thus our *Abbé*, who was only an Agent from the Court of *Parma*, became one of the ſecret Miniſters of the Court of *France*, by which he

he was wholly employed to negociate the Marriage of King *Philip* with *Elizabeth Farneſio*, Princeſs of *Parma*.

The Pope's Nuncio gave ſo advantageous a Character to King *Philip* of the Preſumptive Heireſs of *Parma*, when he firſt propoſed the Match to him, that his Majeſty believed, and not without good Reaſon, that the Princeſs would be as agreeable to him as his late Queen had been, on whom he doted, and whoſe Loſs he ſtill lamented. Other Conſiderations added to this, together with a Deſire of being reinſtated in *Italy*, ſoon determined the Royal Widower to approve of this Propoſal. *Philip*, without any Loſs of Time, ſent Orders to Cardinal *Acquaviva*, who managed the Affairs of *Spain* at *Rome*, to notify the Concluſion of this Match to Pope *Clement*, in whoſe Preſence the Marriage was, for Form Sake, ſolemnized a few Days after, in a public Conſiſtory, in which *Acquaviva* delivered a Letter to his Holineſs from the Catholic King, wherein he acquainted him with the Alliance between him and the Princeſs of *Parma*, his Feudatory.

This Ceremony ſoon alarmed the *Auſtrian* Miniſters, who, till then, were not privy to the Match; for the Satisfaction expreſſed by the

the Pope on this Occaſion, opened their Eyes, both as to the Conſequences and Motives of a Brief which *Clement* XI. had granted a little before to the Duke of *Parma*, whereby he impowered him to appoint the Princeſs his Niece, and now eſpouſed to the King of *Spain*, the Heir of his Dominions, on Default of Male Iſſue, which has ſince happened. There was another Clauſe in this Brief, which gave the eldeſt Son of the future Queen a Right to be Duke and Sovereign of *Parma*, *Placentia*, *Buſſeto*, *Val de Taro*, beſides the Claims he ſhould form on *Tuſcany*, on the Death of *Gaſton de Medicis*, the late Grand Duke. It was the more natural for the Pope to give his Conſent to all this, becauſe, as the *Auſtrian* Power increaſed in *Italy*, which formerly had been the Seat of the Empire, ſo the Jealouſies and Fears of the Court of *Rome*, and of all the *Italian* Princes and States, increaſed in proportion.

Clement the XIth did not ſtop here, but to ſhew his further Regard for the Catholick King and the future Queen, he appointed Cardinal *Gozzadini*, his Legate, *a Latere*, to carry the new Queen the Nuptial Benediction, and to compliment her on the Part of his Holineſs. The Cardinals *Schrottenbach*

back and *Imperiali*, who were charged with the Emperor's Affairs at *Rome*, were no ſooner apprized of what had paſſed with regard to the Princeſs of *Parma*, but they proteſted in Form both againſt ſending the Legate *a Latere*, and againſt her forming any Pretenſions, either for himſelf, or her Iſſue, on *Parma* and *Placentia*, &c.

All this, however, was not ſufficient to check Pope *Clement*'s Joy for having mortified the Houſe of *Auſtria*. Cardinal *Acquaviva* repaired directly, after the Ceremony was over at *Rome*, to *Parma*, to demand the Princeſs of the reigning Duke, by Orders from King *Philip*; and the Legate *a Latere* followed him the next Day with a numerous Retinue.

While Matters were thus tranſacting in *Italy*, the Catholic King declared the Treaty of Marriage he had concluded, to his Court, as King *Lewis* the Fourteenth did on the ſame Day at *Marli*. The Politicians of both Kingdoms were highly ſurprized to find that an Affair of ſo extraordinary a Nature could be carried on, and brought to an happy Iſſue with ſo much Secreſy; and concluded, that whoſoever was the

the Author of it, muſt be a mortal Enemy to the *Auſtrian* Family.

The Cardinals *Acquaviva* and *Gozzadini* were no ſooner arrived at *Parma*, but they notified the ſame to the Duke; and the Ceremonies uſed on ſuch Occaſions being performed with great Magnificence, the young Queen ſet out for *Genoa*, where *Acquaviva*, who attended her from *Parma*, preſented her to the Marquis *de los Balbazzes*, a *Spaniſh* Grandee, and late Vice-Roy of *Sicily*, to conduct her to the *Spaniſh* Court. The Marquis deſigned to carry her Majeſty to *Alicant* by Sea; but the Queen not liking that Element, would not venture upon it, but travelled by Land thro' the South of *France*, and by eaſy Journies at laſt entered the King her Spouſe's Dominions, and went directly to *Pamplona* in *Navarre*, where ſhe diſcharged moſt of her *Parmeſan* Attendants.

The King and Court having received the agreeable News of her Majeſty's Arrival in *Spain*, the Princeſs of *Urſinos* ſet out immediately to meet her, and travelled as far as *Xadraquex* before the Queen came up, who was not in ſuch a Hurry to ſee *Urſinos*: When ſhe came into the Queen's Preſence, at the Place already mentioned, the Queen

looked upon her with great Indifference. This did not hinder the Princeſs of *Urſinos* from congratulating her Majeſty on her Marriage with King *Philip*, and on her ſafe Arrival in his Dominions. The Queen, by the Advice of *Alberoni*, had concerted proper Meaſures to get rid of a dangerous Favourite, which, ſhe dreaded, might one Day or other diſturb that Happineſs ſhe promiſed herſelf, from the Affection of the King her Conſort, with whom her only Study was to live and die in perfect Harmony, which Favourites too often mar.

Urſinos, having made an End of her Compliment, was thunder-ſtruck when ſhe found that the Queen would not vouchſafe to make her the leaſt Anſwer. Notwithſtanding which, ſhe continued in her Majeſty's Preſence, till the Colonel of her Guards came to acquaint *Urſinos*, that he was ready to wait upon her to the Frontiers of *France*, where he was ordered to ſee her ſafe. In vain did the unfortunate *Urſinos* alledge the great Services ſhe had rendered King *Philip* and his late Queen, and how faithfully ſhe had acquitted herſelf of the Charge of Governeſs of the *Infants* of *Spain*, or her firm Attachment to the Houſe of *Parma*; for ſhe could not get one Word from the Queen.

In

In the Confuſion and Anxiety which this ſudden and unexpected Change of her Affairs had reduced her to, from the high Pinacle of human Glory, ſhe muſtered up her Spirits, and told the Officer, That ſhe would obey the Queen's Orders, but would return to Court, to make her Complaints to the Catholic King. The Colonel finding her ſo reſolute, and bent on going back to *Madrid*, he pulled out the King's Order and read it to her. It imported, that the Princeſs of *Urſinos* was to be carried *luego, luego*, (that is, forthwith,) forthwith, to the Frontiers of *France*, with a ſtrict Charge to her never to return into *Spain*. As ſhe was acquainted with *Philip* V's Signature, which the Colonel ſhewed to her, ſhe no longer heſitated, but taking a white Handkerchief out of her Pocket, and clapping it to her Face, to hide the Shower of Tears that flowed from her Eyes, ſhe walked in a ſeeming Hurry out of the Queen's Preſence, without bidding adieu to her Majeſty.

The Colonel of the Guards conducted her ſafe out of the *Spaniſh* Territories; and ſhe, upon her Arrival in *France*, went directly to *Rome*, where ſhe took up her Reſidence for the Remainder of her Life. Some Years after, ſhe died in that Capitol; and though

ſhe was immenſely rich, we could learn but of two Bequeſts made by her, which were of no extraordinary Value; being only a Gold Snuff-Box, and a Silver Urinal.

The new Queen of *Spain* having been made eaſy in her Mind, by the Baniſhment of *Urſinos*, ſhe continued her Journey from *Xadraquez* to *Madrid*. The King with the Prince of *Aſturias*, who was then very young, attended by the Grandees and other Courtiers, received her Majeſty at *Guadalaxara*, a ſmall City about nine Leagues diſtant from the Capitol, on *Chriſtmas* Eve, 1714. It was here that *Philip* V. conſummated his Marriage, and ſpent two Days in Careſſes on the Queen; on the Third they made their Public Entry into *Madrid*, where Rejoicings were made for four Days ſucceſſively, on account of the Marriage.

The Princeſs of *Parma* being thus ſeated, as King *Philip*'s Conſort, on the *Spaniſh* Throne, ſhe had recourſe to all her Wit and Policy, in order to endear herſelf to the *Spaniſh* Nation, which doated on the late Queen, and whoſe Memory was conſtantly refreſhed in their Minds, by the daily Sight of the Princes her Sons. The new Queen had

had brought an old Matron with her from her native Country, who had been her Wet-Nurſe, and whoſe Name was *Laura*; but out of Reſpect to the Queen, the *Spaniards* conferred the Title of *Donia* on this *Laura*. The new *Donia* was full of Experience and Intrigues, and ſucceeded in the important Place of Favourite, not only to the diſgraced *Urſinos*, but even to his Eminence Cardinal *del Giudici*, though Prime Miniſter, who was ſoon after diſgraced.

As *Donia Laura* was of mean Birth, and of no great Delicacy in Points of Honour, ſhe would ſtick at nothing to pleaſe her Miſtreſs, and would ſtoop to every thing to gratify the Deſire of her ambitious Queen, as ſhall be obſerved in the Sequel of this Hiſtory: And the better to manage the Affairs committed to her Conduct, ſhe had a beautiful young Daughter unprovided for, who appearing in the new Queen's Retinue, brought Numbers of Gallants of the firſt Rank to admire her, and pay their Court to *Donia Laura*, for her Daughter's Sake.

Alberoni, the *Italian* Prieſt, who had ſo ſucceſsfully conducted the Affair of this Marriage, was placed at the Head of the Miniſtry, in the Room of Cardinal *del Giudici*;

and *Clement* XI. to give ſignal Marks of his Approbation, with reſpect to theſe Changes at the *Spaniſh* Court, ſent a Cardinal's Cap to the new Prime Miniſter. Thus the *Italian* Faction was eſtabliſhed at the Court of *Madrid*, and in its Councils, which conſtantly claſhed with the *French* and *Spaniſh* Partizans, till with the Death of King *Philip* the Queen's Authority died alſo.

Before we enter into a Detail of this Queen's boundleſs Ambition, it will not be improper to give a ſhort Account of theſe three Factions. And to begin with the *Spaniards:* They are a People, generally ſpeaking, that do not admire Novelties, or Faſhions, either in Politics, or Dreſs. They are highly contented with their Poſſeſſions in *Europe* and the *Weſt-Indies*, and making War againſt the *Moors*, with whom they never have Peace; and nothing would lie heavy on their Hearts, were they once more in Poſſeſſion of *Gibraltar* and *Minorca*.

The *French* Faction were ſo many Spies on the Court of *Spain*, and gave frequent Intelligence of what paſſed in her Councils to the Court of *Verſailles:* But their chiefeſt Province was to influence the *Spaniſh* Miniſters to ſecond all the Schemes and Projects formed

formed by the Court of *France:* Whether they were to make new Acquiſitions, or diſturb the Peace of *Europe*, mattered nothing, ſo they could bring the *Spaniſh* Miniſtry to reliſh them, as they often did.

The *Italian* Faction were, firſt, for raiſing themſelves to high Poſts and Dignities, in which they ſucceeded to Admiration: But as ſoon as Don *Carlos* was born, they thought *Italy* of too narrow an Extent for that *Infant* to wield his Sceptre in. When the Queen was delivered of more Sons, the Church was forced to make Room for one of them; and though under Age, to confer the Archbiſhiprick of *Toledo*, with it's Revenues, and a Cardinal's Cap, on him.

Theſe three Factions always jarred with one another: But the *French* were true to their Truſt, and frequently brought the Court of *Spain* to adhere to their Maſter's Schemes and Plans. As for the *Spaniſh* Faction, ſome of them proved ſtaunch to the laſt, and ſuffered themſelves to be baniſhed, rather than be guilty of any low Condeſcentions derogatory from their Honour. Others, ſeeing they had a foreign King and Queen to deal with, temporized, and became as aſſiduous in their Zeal to them as the *French* and *Italians*.

Since

Since the Death of Don *Lewis* I. King of *Spain*, the *Spaniſh* Faction had Don *Ferdinando*, Prince of *Aſturias*, for their Patron; as the other two had the Catholic King and Queen. It is an eaſy thing to conceive of what little Weight this Faction could be, ſince the Prince himſelf was not allowed to go abroad, or take any Diverſion, without Leave. Soon after his Royal Highneſs's Marriage with the *Infanta* of *Portugal*, the *Spaniſh* Court went into *Andaluſia*; and being at *Seville*, the Prince of *Aſturias*, attended by his Courtiers, who were but few, went one Afternoon, to take a View of that noble and antient City, which before the *Parmeſan* Queen's Time, had been the Emporium for Trade between *Spain* and the *Weſt-Indies*, which Privilege was privately bought for a large Sum of Gold, (it need not be inquired of whom) and the Trade carried to *Cadiz*, where it ſtill remains.

The Preſumptive Heir to the *Spaniſh* Monarchy having appeared publicly in the Streets of *Seville*, a Thing not ſeen there for ſome Centuries before, all Ranks crowded to admire his Royal Highneſs as he paſſed by. The Concourſe which followed Don *Ferdinando* was as extraordinary, as the Joy they expreſſed on that Occaſion; and the *Sevillians*

ans thought it their Duty to attend him with all Demonſtrations of Fidelity, and bare-headed, till the Evening invited him to return to Court, whither they followed him to the very Gates, in great Order.

The Queen of *Spain*, who knew nothing of the Prince's being gone to take the Air, was in dreadful Agonies, when ſhe heard that a numerous Crowd of People was approaching the Palace. The general Diſcontent ſhe had given the *Spaniſh* Nation came firſt into her Mind; her next Thought was, that a Revolution was on the Point of being brought about in Favour of Don *Ferdinando*. The King's late Abdication, and his Deſire to abdicate once more, confirmed her in theſe Apprehenſions, till, from one of the Palace Windows, where ſhe ſtood to obſerve the Motions of the Crowd, ſhe perceived the Prince of *Aſturias* advance towards the Gates, which he had no ſooner entered, than the Concourſe diſperſed very quietly; and along with it, the Queen's Fears.

Don *Ferdinando* went directly to his own Appartment to ſalute his Conſort, to whom he had been ſcarcely a Month married; but was no ſooner got there, than the Queen ſent for him. The Prince waited on her Majeſty,

Majeſty, who ſoon let him know her Buſineſs with him, by ordering his Highneſs never more to go abroad, or to appear in any Part of *Seville*, but when the whole Court was along with him; without telling him the Reaſons why; and concluded with ſaying, *that as ſhe was Queen of* Spain, *ſhe expected to be obeyed.* The poor Prince durſt not ſay nay, and paying a ſubmiſſive Obedience, gave her Majeſty to underſtand that he would religiouſly obſerve her Commands, but was not able to ſpeak a Word to her.

Tho' the *Spaniſh* Court ſpent a conſiderable Time at *Seville*, *Cadiz*, *Granada*, and other Parts of *Andaluſia*, whoſe Inhabitants were extremely well pleaſed with the Preſence of the Royal Family and the whole Court, particularly with the Prince of *Aſturias*, yet they could not help murmuring at his being kept cooped up like a *Minor*, by a Step-Mother, and a Foreigner. All this, however, was to no Purpoſe; for notwithſtanding that Don *Ferdinando* was but newly married, and the King of *Portugal* his Father-in-Law ought to have reſented the hard Uſage received by the Prince and his Daughter, yet the Great and Powerful look on ſuch Affairs as mere Trifles, though Perſons of inferior

ferior Rank are too apt to reſent the like Treatment.

Let us now return to examine the *Parmeſan* Queen's Conduct. After ſhe had ſettled her own Faction, the firſt Step ſhe took was, by the Advice of *Alberoni* and Approbation of *Donia Laura*, to increaſe the Maritime Power of *Spain*, and to ſettle a Woollen Manufactory at *Guadalaxara*, the Place where ſhe firſt embraced *Philip* the Vth; the Memory of which was ſo dear to her, it ſeems, that by this Means ſhe would bring an Addition of Trade to that little City. A proper Perſon was ſent to *Holland*, to purchaſe Ships; but the cunning *Dutch* would ſell none to a Power of which they are always jealous; neither would they in any reſpect concur to ſtrengthen a Nation from whoſe Yoke they had the good Fortune to reſcue themſelves; though not without the Treaſure, Men, and Generals, as well as Ships of War, from *England*.

The chief Object which the Queen of *Spain* had in View, when ſhe formed theſe Projects, was to ingratiate herſelf to the *Spaniſh* Nation, and thereby be enabled, at the Expence of the Public, to carry on the other Schemes ſhe had hatched; and at the ſame time

time to diſtreſs, as much as ſhe could, the *Britiſh* Trade, both by Sea and Land, in *Europe* and the *Weſt-Indies*. The Poſſeſſion of a Garriſon, of ſo much Importance as that of *Gibraltar* would be to the *Spaniards*, (the Loſs of which was looked upon as a Sort of Chain which threatened them with Slavery, while the *Engliſh* had got not only a Maſter Key to the ſtrongeſt Gate of their Kingdom, but alſo that very Gate in their own Hands,) piqued them ſtrongly againſt *Great Britain*.

The Queen was very ſenſible that the *Spaniſh* Wool was bought up and carried into *England*, where, being manufactured, was ſold again to her Subjects at extravagant Prices. She alſo foreſaw, that interfering in any Shape with the Woollen Trade, would alarm the *Engliſh*. However, ſhe reſolved to puſh on her Schemes at all Hazards. Woolcombers, Spinners, and Weavers were ſent for to *France*; but not being able to bring any out of that Country for their purpoſe, *Holland*, which not long before had refuſed to ſell her Ships, now ſupplied her with all ſorts of Manufacturers to carry on a Woollen Trade. Some Hands were alſo brought from *Ireland*; but thoſe latter were very few. The Woollen Manufactory has ſince that Time been carried

ried on with great Succeſs at *Guadalaxara* and *Segovia*, though not brought to that Perfection as in *England*, nor in all its Branches; yet it ſerves to cloath all their Troops, and the middling as well as the common People.

But the Queen's favourite Scheme was, the driving of the *Germans* out of *Italy*, and the delivering the Duke of *Parma* from the Terrors which the Pretenſions formed by the Emperor on his States were wont to give him. This ſhe concealed under the ſpecious Colouring of ſeeing with Sorrow the Provinces, lately dependant on the Crown of *Spain*, torn from it; which Diſcourſe ſhe was ſenſible would prove pleaſing to the *Spaniards*, and particularly to the Grandees who poſſeſſed many Poſts and Employments in that Country, when *Spain* held *Milan*, *Naples*, *Sicily* and *Sardinia*.

The Emperor was at the ſame time engaged in a Bloody War with the *Turks*; and ſhe concluded that a more ſeaſonable Opportunity could not preſent itſelf, for wreſting ſome of the Provinces out of his Hands which Neceſſity had compelled *Spain* to yield to him, by the Treaty of *Utrecht*. The better to conceal her Deſign, ſhe preſſed the equipping

equipping of a Fleet, which was ſent to join the *Venetians* againſt the *Turks*, by Means of which *Corfu* was ſaved from the *Infidel* Yoke.

The next Step ſhe took, was to procure from the Pope a Bull, empowering the King of *Spain* to raiſe a large Sum of Money from his Clergy, on Pretence that it was to be employed againſt the Enemies of Chriſtianity and the Catholic Church. This likewiſe gave her an Opportunity of carrying on, without any Suſpicion, a Naval Armament, which would otherwiſe have alarmed all *Europe*, and from which the *Venetians* expected great Advantages. This Expedition, notwithſtanding, was deſigned againſt *Sardinia*, though it had been given up by Treaty to the Emperor. As this was a manifeſt Infraction of the Treaties of *Utrecht* and *Baden*, nothing could happen that would ſo ſoon revive that Alliance which had made the *French* and *Spaniſh* Monarchies totter before. The Queen, foreſeeing the Conſequences which might attend this warlike Preparation, cauſed a Letter to be ſent by the Marquis *Grimaldi*, one of her principal Secretaries of State, to the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſadors at the ſeveral Courts of *Europe*, dated on the 9th of *Auguſt*, *N. S.* 1717, to perſuade, if poſſible,

thoſe

thoſe Courts of her upright Intentions. *Riſum teneatis Amici.*

SIR,

" It is not to be doubted that the Paſſage " of the King's Forces for the Reduction of " the Iſland of *Sardinia*, at a Time when " all the Chriſtian States had Reaſon to per- " ſuade themſelves that this Armament was " deſigned to reinforce the Chriſtian Fleet " againſt the common Enemy, according to " the generous Offers which his Majeſty had " made to his Holineſs, has much ſurprized " your Excellency, as well as the Public, " ſeeing that I myſelf have been extremely " aſtoniſhed at it; and who having the Ho- " nour of being ſo near his Majeſty, may " be allowed ſo much the more to know " what no Body is unacquainted with of that " Prince; that is, his Uprightneſs, his Ju- " ſtice, his Religious Obſervance of his Royal " Word; his extreme Delicacy in Matters " of Conſcience, and his Superiority of Spi- " rit in Adverſity, which makes him ſur- " paſs his Predeceſſors, the moſt Catholic " and moſt Holy.

" In the mean time, who can imagine " that a Prince, adorned with all theſe Vir- " tues, forgetting himſelf ſo much, as we

" may ſay, ſhould undertake an Act of Ho-
" ſtility againſt the Arch-Duke *, at a Time
" when he had ſo dangerous a War upon his
" Hands with the *Turks*, and even when
" the Coaſts of the Eccleſiaſtical State were
" threatened with an Invaſion? The Caſe
" being thus, no Body can reaſon otherwiſe,
" than that the Motives muſt be very great
" and very preſſing, that ſhould force ſuch
" a Reſolution. Motives, which, after a long
" and ſurprizing Silence, I have at laſt been
" informed of, from the living Oracle of their
" Majeſties ſacred Mouths, with Order to
" communicate it to your Excellency.

" Greatneſs of Soul made his Majeſty bear
" with the diſmembering of his Dominions,
" which the Plenipotentiaries would ſacrifice
" to the Tranquility of *Europe*. Afterwards
" he perſuaded himſelf that thoſe ſtipulated
" Sacrifices would, at leaſt, have ſecured to
" him the Reſt of this Nation. But no
" ſooner had he complied with the Surren-
" der of *Sicily*, in Favour of the Repoſe of
" *Spain*, on Condition of the Evacuation of
" *Catalonia* and the Iſland of *Majorca*, than
" he diſcovered that the Orders ſent for that

" Purpoſe

* The Court of *Spain* never gave the Emperor any other Title, till the Treaty of *Vienna* was concluded by *Riperda* in 1725.

" Purpoſe were concealed: And when, at " laſt, it came to the Knowledge of his Allies, " it was pretended that the Treaty ſhould be " executed, by virtue whereof his Majeſty " demanded the Evacuation of thoſe Places.

" Nothing was more eaſy for that Pur- " poſe, than for the Garriſons of the Arch- " Duke to have ſurrendered to the King's " Troops, the Gates of the Places they poſ- " ſeſſed, in the ſame Manner as was reci- " procally practiſed among the Potentates of " *Europe*; but, on the contrary, the Generals " of the Arch-Duke violating the Public " Faith of the Treaties, and the reciprocal " Engagements, abandoned the Places to " the *Catalans*, making them at the ſame " time believe that they would ſoon return; " and thereby fomented their diſquiet and re- " bellious Spirit, ſo far as to induce them to " think of a furious and obſtinate Reſiſtance; " which was the more injurious to his Ma- " jeſty as it was powerful. The Generals, " when they embarked, permitted that the " Horſes of their Troops ſhould be left and " abandoned to the Rebels: They had even " a Deſign to deliver *Oſtalrique* to them; a " Place that had been put into their Hands, " for the more eaſy and ſafe Embarkation of " their Troops.

" What Expences! what Deſtruction! " what Afflictions and Miſeries have not this " Violation of Faith and Contravention of " Treaties, which ought to be ſacred, brought " upon *Spain?* The Continuation of the " War had been leſs ſenſible, and the Loſſes " it might have brought, more glorious to " *Spain.*

" With all this the King, for the Love of " Peace, diſſembled, and ſhut his Eyes upon " the continued Succours that came from " *Naples*, to ſupport the Boldneſs of the Re- " bels, in hopes of procuring, Step by Step, " Repoſe for his Subjects, after ſo long and " ruinous a War. How much more eaſy " would it have been for his Majeſty to have " invaded, with his powerful Armies, the " Dominions the Arch-Duke poſſeſſed, to " make him ſenſible of the injurious and in- " ſidious Treatment he had been guilty of? " But, notwithſtanding all this, his Breach " of Faith did not ſtop there.

" Letters were ſent to the Generals and " Governors of *Majorca*, to ſurrender it to " the King; but contrary Orders, ſecretly " given, animated them to delay the Per- " formance, and gain Time for the Arrival " of *German* Succours to force *Spain* to a

" new

" new War, and to plunge the Kingdom into
" freſh Expences and Miſeries; but the King
" having made himſelf Maſter of the City,
" the Iſland was delivered to him.

" It muſt naturally be believed, that theſe
" manifeſt and authentic Acts of the Breach
" of Faith did not end there. The Mi-
" niſtry of *Vienna* went ſo far as to approve
" of them by public Demonſtrations, and by
" the Recompences given to the moſt obſti-
" nate Rebels, and to thoſe who had di-
" ſtinguiſhed themſelves by their criminal
" Operations; declaring themſelves thereby
" the Authors of Actions ſo injurious, com-
" mitted by a People ſo unworthy, ſo vile,
" and ſo perfidious.

" The War which the *Turks* had declared
" againſt the Emperor, certainly preſented to
" his Majeſty a fair Opportunity of reveng-
" ing himſelf, and opened a Door to re-enter
" the Dominions uſurped from him. But,
" inſtead of taking Advantage of that Con-
" juncture, he not only condeſcended, not to
" diſturb the Peace of *Italy*, but in Oppoſi-
" tion to his own Intereſt, he indirectly con-
" tributed to the aggrandizing of his Enemy,
" by employing his Forces, out of a Motive
" of Religion, to reinforce the Allies of the

" Arch-Duke, and assist them in conquering " the *Turks*.

" The King, after this, believed that a " Conduct so sincere and disinterested would " have produced, in the Mind of the Arch- " Duke, if not a Desire of Peace, at least the " Attention and Regard which is observed " even among declared Enemies, and the " Generals of Armies in Sight of one another, " among whom reciprocal Civilities are com- " mon. But far from following that Prac- " tice, injurious Declarations have been pub- " lished at *Vienna*, in *Italy*, and in *Flanders*, " against the Person of the King, and against " his Crown; and proceeded so far as to have " the Inquisitor-General of *Spain* to be seized, " notwithstanding that he was furnished with " a Passport from the Pope, with the Con- " sent and Approbation of Cardinal *Schrot-* " *tenbach*.

" This last Act has recalled to his Maje- " sty's Mind, the past Offences, and the Ob- " ligations that lie on a King to revenge him- " self, and acquire Satisfaction for the Injuries " he has suffered; which he cannot dispense " with, without weakening his Authority in " the Minds of his Subjects, who will look " upon him as incapable of securing their

" Repose,

" Repoſe, if he puts up the Affronts that are " offered to his Regal Dignity.

" Upon the whole, it is to be conſidered that " the Miniſtry of *Vienna* have, at all times, " ſought all Means poſſible to humble the " Minds of a Nation, ſo ſcrupulous and nice in " the Point of Honour, and who take all pub- " lic Injuries offered to their King as a great " Offence. Nothing but theſe ſerious Con- " ſiderations could have put a Stop to the " Courſe of his Majeſty's Intentions, of ſend- " ing the powerful Succours that were pre- " pared againſt the Enemy of the Arch-Duke, " the *Turk*, and excite his Juſtice to employ " them in a lawful Vengeance.

" Your Excellency is charged to make " known, that his Majeſty, who has con- " curred in adjuſting the Differences of *Rome*, " with a Zeal and Intention ſo pure, for " the Good and Honour of the Church, " could never, without the moſt powerful " Motives, have ſtopped thoſe Forces with " which he was always diſpoſed to aggran- " dize it: And it is a great Mortification to " me, to ſee that theſe Succours, demand- " ed by his Holineſs, are for ſome time de- " layed, which His Majeſty through a juſt " Reſentment, cannot avoid. It were to be " hoped that the Conduct of the Miniſtry

" of ſo conſiderable a Prince as is the Arch-
" Duke, had been regulated and proportioned
" to the Dignity of a Sovereign; and that
" they had not expoſed themſelves to the
" juſt Blame that is due to a continual and
" manifeſt Want of good Faith."

This Letter, though wrote with great Art, had not the deſired Effect. His Majeſty King *George* I. had, on the 25th of *May* 1716, ſigned a Treaty with the Emperor at *London*, whereby he obliged himſelf to prevent the ambitious Views of the Court of *Spain* from taking place. In order to this, he formed a Scheme for uniting the Duke of *Orleans*, then Regent of *France*, and the *States-General* with himſelf, in the Meaſures neceſſary for the Support of the Tranquility of *Europe*. His Majeſty ſent Orders for this Purpoſe to his Miniſters at the Courts aforementioned, to make preſſing Repreſentations on this Head. Mr. *Stanhope*, at preſent Earl of *Harrington*, was ſent to *Madrid*, to ſecond the no leſs preſſing Inſtances of his Miniſter at that Court, to obtain a Delay of the Expedition againſt *Sardinia*.

The *Deputies* of the *States General*, agreeable to his *Britannic* Majeſty's Scheme, made ſome Remonſtrances on the Conduct of the *Spaniſh*

Spaniſh Court, to the Marquis of *Berrettilandi*, who had the Charge of his Catholic Majeſty's Affairs at that Time at the *Hague*. To which he anſwered with a Recital of the Marquis of *Grimaldi*'s Letter to him. But finding that ſuch Pretexts had no great Effect on the *States*, and that they had taken a Reſolution of acting with more Vigour than uſual, he changed his Conduct; and on the Arrival of a Courier from *Spain*, whom, he pretended, had brought freſh Inſtructions, he demanded a Conference, in which he preſented a *Memorial*, drawn up in a Stile peculiar to his great Talants and Eloquence.

In this *Memorial* he again referred himſelf to the Marquis of *Grimaldi*'s Letter; and then, as a Specimen of the infinite Subject of Complaint which he had in his Hand, he mentioned ſeveral extraordinary Inſtances of the Emperor's inſidious Behaviour, alledging that the Arch-Duke had violated the *Treaty* of *Neutrality* concluded both for *Spain* and *Italy*, by ſeizing on the Perſon of Father *Molinos*, the Grand-Inquiſitor, in the *Milaneſe*, on his Journey from *Rome*, and continued to detain him his Priſoner. *Berrettilandi* likewiſe urged, " That by the *Treaty* of " *Neutrality*, *Italy* had been put under Co- " ver; notwithſtanding which, heavy Con- " tributions

" tributions had been raiſed upon them after-
" wards. That the Arch-Duke kept at *Vi-*
" *enna*, what he called, a *Council* for *Spain*,
" wherein nothing was tranſacted but what
" tended to diſturb his Catholic Majeſty's
" Repoſe. That the Emperor aimed at no-
" thing leſs than engroſſing all *Italy* to him-
" ſelf; and that they might eaſily foreſee
" what ought to be expected from the Arch-
" Duke, ſince he had ſeized on *Mantua*, the
" Citadel of *Italy*, notwithſtanding the juſt
" Rights of a certain *Family* ſo powerfully
" attached to him, that all the Artifice of the
" *Aulic* Council could never juſtify ſuch an
" Uſurpation. Let me farther (ſays this crafty
" Miniſter) remark to your High Mightineſſes,
" that the Point his *Britannic Majeſty* and
" yourſelves ſeem to have in view, is, the Sup-
" porting of the *Ballance* of Power in *Europe*.
" The *Ballance* of Power in *Europe* depends
" immediately on a *Ballance* of Power in
" *Italy*; and it would be extremely odd to
" think of maintaining that, by ſeconding
" the Pretenſions of a Prince who endeavours
" to overturn it."

The Marquis concluded this *Memorial* with the ſtrongeſt Aſſurances of his Catholic Majeſty's Friendſhip to their *High Mightineſſes*, and friendly Inclinations towards

wards the *Dutch* in Point of Trade, &c. By these Assurances, which the Marquis gave constantly in private Discourse, as well as on public Occasions, he expected to carry his Point, both with these in the Government and with the People.

As for the Queen of *Spain*, ever since she ascended the Throne, she affected great Secrecy in all her Projects, in which she was so fortunate as to amuse the Princes of *Europe* for many Months; and in that Time she persuaded her Grandees that she had nothing more at Heart than the Glory and Interest of the *Spanish* Monarchy; under Pretence of supporting which, she drew immense Sums from them, partly by fair Means, and partly by Force, which she employed in raising Armies, building Ships, repairing Fortresses, establishing Manufactures, and embroiling the Powers of *Europe*, that she might carry on her own Schemes without Interruption. And as for the *Italian* Princes, they had all the Reason in the World to be pleased with her Conduct, since her darling Project was to free *Italy* from the Terrors of the House of *Austria*.

To effect this, she resolved to establish her Right of Succession to *Parma* and *Placentia*, and

and even *Tuſcany* in her own Iſſue. She projected the Conqueſt of *Sardinia* and *Sicily* by Force of Arms. That of *Naples* was to follow, as well as that of the *Milaneſe* and the *Mantuan*, if Succeſs attended her. In the Courſe of her Enterprizes, ſhe ſtripped the Emperor of *Sardinia*, before any Body was aware of it. She afterwards duped the King of *Sicily*, by a feigned Negotiation for the Exchange of that Kingdom for *Naples*, while ſhe made Preparations for the Conqueſt of that Iſland, which ſhe almoſt compleated.

Spain now began to wear a new Face, and in the Space of a few Months, from being the moſt dejected, became the moſt conſiderable Court in *Europe*. Money circulated every where. There ſprung up an Appearance of Trade and Buſineſs where it never had been heard of. The Government employed a great Number of Perſons in ſeveral Kinds of Work, and paid them generouſly and punctually. If Fleets were fitted out, they were not for Show. If Money was raiſed on the People, the meaneſt of them knew to what Uſes it was converted.

His late Majeſty *George* I. King of *Great Britain*, appeared, from his aſcending that Throne, a Prince to whom Fortune had given

ven nothing more than he deſerved. Some ſanguine People however expected he would have relinquiſhed the Peace of *Utrecht*; but his Majeſty was of another way of thinking, and reſolved, if poſſible, to keep both his Subjects and his Neighbours in Peace. With this Deſign, he entered into very ſtrict Alliances with the Emperor and with *France*. When the Queen of *Spain's* Projects began to take Effect, he immediately concerted Meaſures for ſupporting the Ballance of Power in *Europe*, or rather for maintaining a certain Syſtem which his Majeſty and his Allies thought neceſſary, for the Preſervation of the Public Tranquility. After the Conqueſt of *Sardinia*, his *Britannic* Majeſty expreſsly declared, "That he ſhould think himſelf obliged to "aſſiſt the Emperor, if any Attempt ſhould "be made on his *Italian* Dominions;" which Declaration, in all Probability, ſaved *Naples*. Not that King *George* intended to abandon *Sardinia* to *Spain*, but by ſtopping her Career, for the preſent, to gain Time for a Negociation, which he ſoon after ſet on foot for a general Peace.

France was at this Time governed by the Duke of *Orleans*, under the Title of Regent, in as abſolute a Manner as any of her Princes had ever done. He had prodigious Deſigns

in

in View, and ſaw himſelf under a Neceſſity of cultivating a ſtrict Friendſhip with *Great Britain*, and of watching over the Deſigns of *Spain*, where he knew that neither their Majeſties nor their Miniſters Deſigns were favourable to him; he therefore took ſuch Steps as to him ſeemed moſt adviſeable, without the Privity of the Court of *Madrid*. In this Diſpoſition he ſent the *Abbé du Bois* to *London*, to regulate there the Expedients which ſhould be found neceſſary for preſerving the Peace of *Europe*, and in Conſequence of whoſe Negociations the Quadruple Alliance was formed.

As for their *High Mightneſſes* the *States General*, they conſulted on this, as they do on all other Occaſions, the Welfare of their Conſtituents; that is to ſay, they heard all Parties, conferred with all Parties, and did all that lay in their Power to be upon good Terms with all Parties. Their Intereſt and Inclinations led them to wiſh well to the Projects of *Great Britain* and *France*; but as they apprehended that the Execution of thoſe Projects might poſſibly embarraſs their Trade, though they gave good Words to the Miniſters of *London*, *Vienna*, and *Verſailles*, yet they gave no bad ones to the Miniſter of the Court of *Madrid*.

The

The Queen had ſome Thoughts of careſſing the *Engliſh* Nation, and of ſecuring their Friendſhip by favouring their Trade: But having diſcovered their Engagements with the Emperor, and being fully informed by a Spy, whom Cardinal *Alberoni* had ſent to *Hanover*, of all that had been concerted there, between King *George* and the Emperor, ſhe determined to take another Courſe, and immediately began to intrigue with the Courts of *Moſcovy* and *Sweden*; which ſhe earneſtly ſought to engage in the Intereſt of the *Chevalier de St. George*, while ſhe projected an Invaſion from *Spain*. She likewiſe contrived a Method for employing the Regent ſo effectually at Home, that he could have no Opportunity of looking Abroad.

With this View ſhe perſuaded the King, her Conſort, to aſſume the Title of *Regent* of *France*; ſhe influenced many of the *French* Nobility to oppoſe the Regent's Deſigns; and at length engaged one of the Princes of the Blood to enter into her Meaſures. Her chief Agents in this extraordinary Buſineſs were Cardinal *Alberoni*, who had a great Share in forming all the Queen's Schemes; Prince *Cellamare*, and the *Abbé Portocarrero*, who were both at *Paris*; the firſt with a Public Character, and the *Abbé* only as a private, but

but intriguing Gentleman. All the Papers and Inſtructions ſent from time to time to Prince *Cellamere*, were drawn up by the Baron *de Riperda*.

As to the *Dutch*, the Marquis *de Berrettilandi* was inſtructed to magnify the Advantages they might receive from their living on good Terms with the *Spaniſh* Court, and the great Hazard their Trade muſt run in caſe of a Rupture. Theſe were the Methods uſed by Queen *Elizabeth Farneſio*, and the intriguing Prieſt, to baffle the greateſt Powers, and the greateſt Politicians in *Europe*. The Queen and her Prime Miniſter had created ſuch Difficulties to thoſe Powers which oppoſed their Views, that nothing but Providence could prevent *Great Britain* and *France* from being plunged into all the Miſeries of a Civil War, in conſequence of their politic Contrivances.

The firſt Diſcovery of the Deſign formed againſt the *Regent* was made in *England*, by the Confeſſions of ſome Perſons, who were taken up for endeavouring to raiſe a Rebellion in this Kingdom. His *Britannic* Majeſty having acquainted the Duke of *Orleans* of what he ſuſpected, his Royal Highneſs could not help being greatly amazed thereat; for Prince *Cellamere* had ſo great an Influence over

over him, and was ſo well looked on by the *Regent*, that he perſuaded him to ſend Orders to *Abbé du Bois*, to avoid acquieſcing, for ſome Time, in the Meaſures taken by the *Britiſh* Miniſtry, in Oppoſition to *Spain*.

Immediately on this Information, *Abbé Portocarrero* was arreſted, as he was returning into *Spain*, on mere Suſpicion, becauſe he hazarded his Life to ſave his Cloak-Bag, which by the overturning of his Chaiſe, fell into a River. The Diſpatches in that Cloak-Bag diſcovered the whole Secret of the *French* Conſpiracy; which was of ſuch a Nature, that it ſtruck all the World with Terror. There was not only a Rebellion to be raiſed, as had been attempted in *England*, but regular Forces were introduced out of *Spain* into that Kingdom, and even into the Neighbourhood of *Paris*, though no Body knew how. The *Regent* was to have been ſeized, and carried Priſoner to *Segovia*, and the whole Government changed.

On this Diſcovery, the Prince *Cellamere* was invited to a Conference, where he was ſecured, and his Papers ſeized in the mean time. It then appeared, that the Queen of *Spain*'s Intrigues were ſtill more dangerous than they had ever been apprehended before,

becauſe Addreſſes were found among *Cellamere*'s Papers from the Nobility and Clergy of *France* to King *Philip*; ſetting forth the diſtreſſed Condition in which they were, the oppreſſive Adminiſtration of the Regent, and the Fears they laboured under for the King's Safety; beſeeching him not to forget the Tenderneſs due to his native Country, but to exert the Force of *Spain* to ſave *France*; which, by exerting her utmoſt Power, had ſeated him on the Throne of *Spain*.

The Duke of *Orleans* treated theſe Papers as Fictions and Forgeries, though he knew very well they were genuine. However, he had the Army at his Devotion, and therefore, without any Heſitation, he declared War againſt *Spain*, and made Preparations for invading that Kingdom; as he ſoon after did with an Army of Sixty Thouſand Men, the Command of which he gave to Marſhal *Berwick*, who in about forty Days Time took *Fuanterabia*, the ſtrongeſt Fortreſs in the Kingdom of *Navarre*. The Bulk of *Philip* the Fifth's Forces was at this Juncture employed in the Conqueſt of *Sicily*, and could ſcarcely muſter above Sixteen Thouſand Men, Horſe and Foot, with whom his Majeſty and the Queen took the Field, but never approached the Enemy, or entered the ſame Province with them.

The

The Emperor *Charles* VI. was on ſuch good Terms with his Allies, that they not only ſtipulated to preſerve for him all the Dominion he, at that Time, had in *Italy*, but alſo to procure for him the Reſtitution of *Sardinia* and *Sicily*. *France*, under the Direction of the Regent, concurred heartily in compelling King *Philip* to accept of the Terms preſcribed to him by the Quadruple Alliance. The King of *Great Britain* ſent a ſtrong Fleet under the Command of Sir *George Byng* into the *Mediterranean*, with Inſtructions to mediate by fair Means, or by foul; which Method of negociating being entirely new to the Queen of *Spain*, and her Prime Miniſter *Alberoni*, all her Schemes were, for that Time, overturned.

The Defeating of the *Spaniſh* Fleet in the *Pharo* of *Meſſina*, without any Loſs to Sir *George*'s Squadron, ſhewed that the Naval Force of *Spain* was but a Phantom. The tranſporting of Imperial Troops into *Sicily*, by the ſame Admiral, deſtroyed all the Hopes conceived by the Queen of *Spain*, of the ſpeedy Reduction of that Iſland. The rapid Progreſs of the *French* Army which entered *Spain* by Land, the incredible Miſchief done both by the *Engliſh* and *French* in the *Spaniſh* Ports; all theſe Diſaſters, we ſay, reduced

the *Spaniſh* Monarch to great Extremities. But as Kings and Queens cannot do wrong, in the Adminiſtration of Affairs, all the Blame of theſe Miſcarriages was laid upon *Alberoni*; though they did not break the Queen's Spirit, or oblige her to abandon her Deſigns, as has been often ſeen by her Conduct ſince.

On the 5th of *December*, 1719, Cardinal *Alberoni* received Orders to appear no more in any Councils, nor to enter into the Royal Preſence, or that of any of the Royal Family; to leave *Madrid* in eight Days, and the Dominions of *Spain* in three Weeks; which King *Philip* ſignified to be a neceſſary Act, for removing all Obſtacles to a General Peace. The Cardinal obeyed, and on the 17th of *February* following the Marquis *de Berrettilandi* ſigned the Quadruple Alliance, which, for ſome time, gave a new Face to the Affairs of *Europe*.

We need not mention the Conditions of Peace granted to *Spain* by this Alliance; but thoſe demanded by that Crown were, 1. All the Places diſmembered from the *Spaniſh* Monarchy, either in *Europe*, or *America*. 2. That his Catholic Majeſty ſhould be at Liberty to tranſport his Forces, Artillery, *&c.* from *Sicily* to *Spain*. All the Men of

of War and Gallies taken on the 11th of *Auguſt*, 1718, to be reſtored, as alſo a certain Veſſel ſeized in the Port of *Breſt*. 4. That the Ceſſion of *Sardinia*, in favour of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, ſhould be on the ſame Terms as the Ceſſion made to the Duke of *Savoy*; that is, with a *Salvo* to his Catholic Majeſty's Rights. 5. That *Gibraltar* and *Port Mahon* ſhould be reſtored to *Spain*. 6. That *Orbitello*, *Porto Hercole*, and their Dependancies ſhould be alſo reſtored. 7. That the Right of Succeſſion to the Dutchies of *Parma* and *Placentia* ſhould be ſecured to the Heirs Male of the Queen of *Spain*, who, by theſe Demands, has regulated her future Views.

The active Queen of *Spain*, who could never be at reſt, and whoſe Genius conſtantly prompted freſh Projects to her, reflecting on the great Share the Duke of *Orleans*, as Regent of *France*, had in ſettling the Emperor's Intereſts, in Oppoſition to all her Schemes, ſought at laſt to bring him into her Meaſures, by propoſing three Matches to him at once: The firſt between *Lewis* XV. and the *Infanta* her Daughter; the ſecond between Don *Lewis*, Prince of *Aſturias* and *Infant* of *Spain*, and a Daughter of the Regent's; and the third between her own Son

and Heir, Don *Carlos*, the preſent King of *Naples* and *Sicily*, and Madame *de Baujolois*, another of the Regent's Daughters.

The Regent readily came into this Scheme, as he propoſed thereby to be the more able to puſh on and compaſs his own Views; which, according to the Diſcourſes of thoſe Days, and the Jealouſies of the *French* Nation, were no leſs than to place himſelf on the *Gallic* Throne. The Duke of *Orleans* was well ſkilled in Chemiſtry, and as the Minor King continued to be of a weakly Conſtitution, it was apprehended that the Regent had in Fact given him a Doſe of ſlow Poiſon, which, in time, would carry him into the other World, before he could attain the Age or Strength of cohabiting with a Queen, in caſe he ſhould be married; or of leaving any Iſſue. Beſides, *Lewis* was at this Juncture but juſt turned of Thirteen, being born on the 10th of *February*, *N. S.* 1710, and the *Infanta* of *Spain*, who by this Project was propoſed for his future Queen, only entered into the fifth Year of her Age; ſo that the young King muſt wait ſeveral Years before he could expect to have Iſſue by her.

Two Ambaſſadors were ſent from the Court of *Spain* to that of *Verſailles*, to give the

the greater Weight to this extraordinary Negociation. The Regent, by ſtarting no Difficulties to theſe Treaties of Marriages, was ſure that King *Philip* would drop his Pretenſions to the Regency, and would not pry ſo narrowly into his own Conduct, as he had done before. The Articles of Marriage between thoſe Princes were ſoon agreed upon and ſigned, by the Miniſters appointed by both Courts for that Purpoſe. Soon after, that is, in the Lent Seaſon, 1723, the *Infanta* of *Spain* was conducted to the Frontiers of both Kingdoms, and there delivered to the *French* Lords and Ladies, who were ſent by the Regent to receive her; and his own two Daughters, Madame *Montpenſier*, and Madame *Baujolois*, were put into the Hands of the *Spaniſh* Grandees and Ladies, who were ſent from *Madrid*, to conduct them to Court.

The Prince of *Aſturias*, afterwards King *Lewis* the Firſt, was the moſt promiſing of all the young Princes in *Europe*; had an amiable Perſon, and a Sweetneſs of Temper, ſcarcely to be equalled. Madam *Montpenſier* was full of *French* Gaity, but no Beauty, no more than her Siſter, Madam *Baujolois*, who was contracted to Don *Carlos*. However, the Queen was highly pleaſed with the Succeſs of

her Scheme, having thereby ſecured to herſelf the Regent's Intereſt; and the *Spaniſh* Nation were no leſs pleaſed, having conceived great Hopes, that the Infant Don *Lewis* would have Iſſue, which might defeat certain favourite, though dangerous and wicked Projects, they had but lately diſcovered, which the Queen had at Heart in favour of her own Children.

The Year following, which was that of 1724, the Duke of *Orleans*, and Regent of *France*, died ſuddenly at *Verſailles*. Various were the Conjectures formed on account of his untimely Death. Some ſaid, that he was poiſoned, which was but a juſt Vengeance * on him, by falling into the very Snare he had prepared for the young King. Others reported, that he died in the Embraces of a Miſtreſs who lay with him that Night, and found him dead by her, when ſhe got out of her Slumber in the Morning. All agree, that he went to Bed in very good Health, and whether he was carried off by a violent or natural Cauſe, we ſhall not pretend to ſay; but certain we are, that his Death was not regretted in *France*; for, on the contrary, the whole

* *Nec Lex eſt juſtior ulla, quam Necis Artifices, Arte perire ſua.*

whole Nation ſeemed to rejoice at it, and expreſſed themſelves in ſuch a Manner as if they had been delivered from the cruel Yoke of Slavery.

The *French* Miniſtry having no longer to do with a Man, who had uſed them as ſo many Tools, and made them all ſubſervient to his Schemes, began to open their Eyes, and conſider of the true Intereſt both of their King and Country. The Duke of *Bourbon* became Regent, as the next Prince of the Blood: The Match concluded for *Lewis* XV. with the *Infanta* of *Spain* was diſapproved, in as much as her tender Age made her incapable, for the preſent, of getting an Heir for the Crown; of which it ſtood in very great need. An extraordinary Council was thereupon immediately called, wherein it was reſolved, that notwithſtanding the Ties of Blood, and the Treaties ſubſiſting between the *French* and *Spaniſh* Courts, the *Infanta* ſhould be ſent back to the Court of *Madrid*, and the King be married to another Princeſs capable of getting Succeſſors for the Crown.

This Reſolution was taken without the Privity of the Court of *Spain*, whoſe Miniſters at *Paris* knew nothing of the Matter, till Orders were given for the *Infanta*'s Journey to

to the Frontiers, on her Return home. Couriers were then diſpatched, one from the *French* Miniſtry to the Ambaſſador from the young King at the Catholic Court; and another from the *Spaniſh* Miniſters to the Prime Miniſter at *Madrid*, with this diſagreeable News.

Though the Queen of *Spain* had met with ſeveral Checks from the Powers of *Europe*, and particularly from the late Regent and *Great Britain*, from the Time ſhe aſcended the Throne, yet nothing ever mortified her ſo much, as the Return of her Daughter. She all along flattered herſelf, that by her Means, as ſoon as her Age would permit the King of *France* to conſummate his Marriage, ſhe ſhould influence all the Councils at *Verſailles*, and prove ſucceſsful in all her Intrigues. But ſuch is the Inſtability and Uncertainty of human Affairs, that the very Man, on whoſe great and abſolute Authority ſhe depended moſt, was ſnatched out of the World, without any Apprehenſions of the Approach of Death. The Duke of *Bourbon*, who ſucceeded as Regent, after the Death of the Duke of *Orleans*, and all the *French* Nation became ſo odious to the Queen of *Spain*, that ſhe came to a Reſolution of throwing herſelf into the Arms of her Enemies, in hopes of being revenged on that perfidious People: And in order to begin with a Shew of as much Reſentment

ſentment at the Indignation, as her Majeſty termed it, that was put on her Daughter, and, in her Perſon, on the *Spaniſh* Nation in general, (which ſhe has always taken Care to bring into her Quarrels,) ſhe cauſed the Princeſs of *Baujolois* to be ſent back into *France*. She would have treated her Siſter, who was married to the Prince of *Aſturias*, with the ſame Tenderneſs, had they not gone through the Ceremony of Conſumation.

However, when the Infant Don *Lewis* came to be King of *Spain*, through *Philip* the Fifth's Abdication, as we have already obſerved, his Queen having diverted herſelf in too free a Manner with her Ladies, at *Aranjuez*, for three or four Days, Report was made thereof by ſome Sycophants, who commonly ſwarm at Courts, to the old Queen; whereupon an Order was ſent to confine her reigning Majeſty to her Apartments, in the Palace of *Madrid*. The young King durſt not find fault with this Procedure, though an Inſtance of the like Nature was never known before. King *Philip*, by his Abdication, had diveſted himſelf of all manner of Power, which, by the ſame Act, he had yielded up, along with the Crown, to his eldeſt Son; notwithſtanding, the abdicated Queen had ſtill ſuch an Influence, and continued to act with

ſo

ſo much Authority, that the Liberty of the Princeſs upon the Throne was not beyond her Reach. King *Lewis* I. died ſoon after, and his Dowager rejoiced that ſhe was permitted to return to her native Country.

During theſe Tranſactions, a Congreſs had been held at *Cambray*, to ſettle, in a peaceable Manner, the various Differences between the claſhing Powers of *Europe*; particularly between the Emperor and *Philip* V. in which, however, nothing was concluded, though it had laſted for three Years. This induced *Spain* privately to ſend Baron *de Riperda* to the Court of *Vienna*, with full and ample Power for entering into a ſeparate Treaty with the Emperor, on certain Conditions, which need not be here mentioned. This was looked upon, by the *Spaniſh* Miniſtry, as the only Expedient for removing all the Obſtacles which prevented theſe two Courts from holding any Commerce or Correſpondence together, or of acknowledging or granting to each other, the Titles by which they poſſeſſed their Crowns.

Riperda, on his Arrival at *Vienna*, waited upon the Miniſters of the Imperial Court, to whom he communicated the Motive of his Journey; a Thing no ways expected, or ſo much as dreamed of, at that Court. The

next

next Day he was admitted to an Audience of the Emperor, and having preſented his Credentials, proper Perſons were appointed to treat with the Baron. Conferences were frequeutly held by the Imperial Miniſters and Monſieur *Riperda* for ſix Months ſucceſſively, without any Hopes of adjuſting the rough and almoſt inſurmountable Difficulties that daily ſtarted. Baron *de Riperda* deſpairing, at laſt, of being able to bring Matters to a happy Iſſue, put an End to the Conferences, and took his Leave in order for his Return to *Madrid.*

Having ſet out, for that Purpoſe, from the Capital of *Auſtria*, he had not travelled many Miles, when he was met by a Courier, diſpatched to him from the Court of *Spain*, with freſh Inſtructions, and more ample Powers, which obliged him to turn back to the next Village, where he ſtopped, to peruſe the Packet he had received. The firſt Thing he read was a Letter from the Queen of *Spain* to him, bitterly inveighing and complaining of the Indignity ſhewn her by the Court of *France*, in ſending the *Infanta* home to her; and charging the Baron, at the ſame Time, to over-look all Niceties and Punctilios, and to conclude a Treaty, at all Events, with the Emperor. Monſieur *Riperda* having thoroughly

roughly examined his Packet, and refreſhed himſelf, he proceeded once more to *Vienna*, and acquainted the Miniſtry, particularly thoſe with whom he had before conferred, with his Return. The next Day he waited upon his Imperial Majeſty, to whom he opened the Motives which brought him ſo ſuddenly back.

The Emperor and his whole Court appeared well pleaſed with the Differences that had happened between the moſt Chriſtian and Catholic Monarchs, and doubted not but he ſhould reap ſome Advantage from the ſame. Orders were given to the *Aulic* Miniſters, who had held the Conferences before with the Baron, to renew them, and not to recede from any thing inſiſted upon at their firſt Meeting. *Riperda*, on the other hand, in Compliance with his Inſtructions, gave up every thing that was demanded of him, ſuch as the Title of *Catholic King*, which the late Emperor *Charles* VI. bore to his Death; the Privilege of creating Knights of the *Golden Fleece*; ſupporting of the *Oſtend* Company, to the Prejudice of the *Britiſh* and *Dutch* Trade; the Imperial Claims and Pretentions in *Italy*, confirmed by *Spain*; and the ſeveral other Articles which were never before liſtened to.

A Treaty

A Treaty of Commerce, as well as an offenſive Treaty, was at the ſame time concluded between the two Courts; in the latter of which, it was clearly made out by a certain Right * Reverend *Britiſh* Writer, that the two Courts had ſtipulated to ſet the *Chevalier* on the Throne of theſe Realms, and to recover *Gibraltar* and *Port Mahon*, in which their joint Forces were to be employed. By this Accommodation the two Monarchs were to give Laws to all *Europe*, and the Queen of *Spain* was ſure of becoming an Over-match for *France*. The Plenipotentiaries, who were employed at the Congreſs of *Cambray* continued their Conferences, all this Time, and knew nothing of what had been tranſacted at *Vienna* till *Riperda*'s Treaties were ratified, and made public by the Court of *Madrid*.

The Congreſs, having no further Buſineſs to do, broke up; but the Courts of *London* and *Verſailles* took the Alarm, and though it may be reckoned an unnatural Thing, yet they ran into one another's Arms, and concluded the Treaty of *Hanover*, in a few Weeks after the Treaty of *Vienna* had been made public; by means of which *Great Britain* and *France* were

* See the Enquiry into the Conduct of certain Foreign Courts, printed in 1727.

were in a Condition to oppoſe all the Attempts of the Emperor and *Spain*. In *February*, 1727, the *Spaniards* laid Siege to *Gibraltar*, which laſted near ſix Months, without any Advantage to the Beſiegers: It was then that *Spain* diſcovered the little or no Advantage ſhe could expect from the Imperial Alliance; for though ſeveral large Sums were ſent from the Court of *Madrid* to that of *Vienna*, to which the Queen contributed very liberally, yet during this long and expenſive Siege, ſhe could draw no manner of Succour on this Score from *Charles* VI. nor prevail upon him to make a Diverſion either in *France*, or in a certain Electorate in her Favour. There was no Probability of taking *Gibraltar*, after the freſh Reinforcements it received from *England*; ſo that our all-projecting Queen was obliged to content herſelf, at laſt, with a Ceſſation of Arms, by the Aſſiſtance of the Emperor, who took great Pains to bring it about.

The Sums mentioned to have been remitted to the Imperial Court from *Spain*, were chiefly deſigned to put his Imperial Majeſty in a Condition of invading *England*; which might be effected with leſs Expence and Difficulty than any other Diverſion that could be expected or required of the Court of *Vienna*, according

according to the Plan of a certain *Britiſh* Nobleman, who had held ſome Conferences with the Emperor's Miniſters, on that Head, ſoon after that a Harmony had been reſtored between the Courts of *Vienna* and *Madrid*. By this Plan, the Emperor was to have near thirty thouſand Men conſtantly in *Flanders*, and ready to be drawn to the Sea-Coaſt on the leaſt Notice, or Order. *Oſtend* and *Newport* were to be filled with all the Fiſhing Veſſels, and other Craft, that could be got; the Troops deſtined for a Deſcent in *England*, being ready at hand, were to be ſent in theſe Veſſels, with a fair Wind, from *Oſtend* and *Newport*, which being always contrary on the *Britiſh* Coaſt, would keep their Men of War in Port. That the *Imperialiſts* might then eaſily land on the Coaſt of *Kent*, and from thence march to *Rocheſter*, ſeize on the Bridge there, and ſecure a Communication with *Suſſex* and *Surry*. That they might alſo ſeize upon ſuch Ships in the *Medway* and *Thames* as they ſhould have Occaſion for, to bring more Troops from *Flanders*, or burn, and deſtroy the Ships in other Ports. *London*, conſequently, muſt become an eaſy Prey to theſe hoſtile Troops, and a Revolution be unavoidably effected, without much Expence or Trouble.

Thus *England*, according to this Nobleman's crazy Plan, was to be conquered, and

no Prince had it ſo much in his Power to execute, as the Emperor. The Nobleman was to have a large Command in the Expedition, and no Man alive knew better how to head and harangue a Mob, than he did. He was generous to a Fault, and ſquandered away his Money and Eſtate in a moſt extravagant Manner, before he had left his native Country. Theſe Qualities, though greatly admired among the low Rank of People in *England*, are looked upon, in Foreign Countries, as the Effects of Madneſs, and all the Honour gained by them, at laſt, when Poverty appears, is only to be pitied by ſome and ſcoffed by others. So much for a little Digreſſion. As to this famous, though dangerous Plan, it never took place; neither did the Emperor or his Miniſters ſeem fond of it: Which, however, they took care to conceal from the Nobleman in Queſtion, leſt he ſhould charge them with Inſincerity to the *Spaniſh* Court, and ſuch a Charge ſhould put a Stop to the Subſidies expected from that new Ally.

This Nobleman, being at laſt tired of waiting at the Court of *Vienna*, which ſeemed in no manner of Hurry to advance his Maſter's Intereſt, ſet out for *Rome*; and after a ſhort Stay there, he went to *Spain*, where an honourable Command in the Army was immediately conferred upon him, though not equal

to

o his great Genius and Merit, had he not abuſed both. He ſerved as *Aid de Camp* to the Count *de las Torres*, during the Siege of *Gibraltar*, under whom he made himſelf Maſter of the Art of War. He was once wounded by the burſting of a Shell, near him, which came from the Garriſon. As ſoon as the Ceſſation was agreed upon, he retired from the Camp, to *Port St. Mary's*, from whence, ſome Time after, he went to *Catalonia*, and there died. Many are of Opinion, that he broke his Heart, for he was often heard repeating the following Words out of the firſt Book of VIRGIL's *Æneid. O! terque quaterque beati*, &c.

The *French* Court, notwithſtanding the Engagements they had lately entered into with that of *Great Britain*, openly favoured *Spain* during the Siege of *Gibraltar*. The Marquis *d'O*, who commanded the *Mediteranean* Fleet, was ſent with a Squadron of twelve Men of War of the Line from *Toulon* to *Cadiz*, with a Deſign, as it was thought, to bring home the *Spaniſh* Treaſure from the *Weſt Indies*, and remained in that Port till the Ceſſation was agreed upon. The Queen of *Spain* was, much about the ſame time, delivered of a Son. The King of *France* was invited to ſtand Godfather to it; and the Infant was called *Lewis*, after his Name.

The Imperial Miniſter at the Court of *Spain* was now looked upon with great Coldneſs, as if the Treaty of *Vienna* had never ſubſiſted. Thus the Queen of *Spain* changed Hands once more, and was as complaiſant and obſequious to *Lewis* XV. as ſhe had been to the late Duke of *Orleans*, when his Daughters came to the Catholic Court.

The King of *France*, having taken the Daughter of King *Staniſlaus* to be his Queen, the *Infanta* of *Spain* could entertain no Hopes of ever returning to *France* again. The Queen her Mother, who was impatient to get a good Match for her, which would, one Day or other, raiſe her to the Dignity of ſitting on a Throne, was very ſollicitous to procure her ſuch a Match. *France*, as yet, had no Male Iſſue; the moſt Chriſtian Queen having been delivered of Twin-Daughters, at her firſt Lying-in, and of another Daughter, at her ſecond Lying-in, the whole Court, as well as the Nation, grew very uneaſy, and greatly apprehended that the Queen of *France* would never have a Son. This made them think of getting the King divorced; for which purpoſe the Marquis *de eſſé* was appointed to go to *Rome*, to negociate a Bull from the Pope, whereby the *French* King ſhould be authorized to repudiate his Queen, and to marry another Princeſs, in hopes of having Male Iſſue

Iſſue by her, which would prevent the Crown of *France* from falling into a Collateral Branch of the Houſe of *Bourbon:* But having, for certain Reaſons, ſuſpended this Reſolution for ſome time, the Queen proved once more with Child; of which, being ſafely delivered, it proved to be of the Male Kind, which occaſioned the Project of the Divorce to be laid aſide. But if it had not, as the *Infanta* had been ſtill too young, the *French* Miniſtry would never chuſe her as a Conſort for their Monarch.

The Queen of *Spain* was very ſenſible of all this, and as ſhe could not get a Match for her Daughter in any other Court, agreeable to her Ambition, ſhe bethought herſelf of *Portugal*, which was nearer home. To carry on this Scheme with the Approbation of the *Spaniards*, and likewiſe of the *Portugueſe*, ſhe brought the *Infant* Don *Ferdinando*, Prince of *Aſturias*, into play. This Prince had ſcarcely been thought of, either had any thing been propoſed for him, or any mention made of him, from the Time he became preſumptive Heir to the Crown, but was left, as it were, in Oblivion, till this new Project was ſet on foot. Don *Ferdinando*, who was always remarkable for his great Penetration and Gravity, which endeared him to the *Spaniſh* Nation, could not help being

mortified at the Proceedings of the Queen his Step-Mother, and the Partiality ſhe had ſhewn to her own Children; yet he learned to diſſemble his Reſentment, with a Prudence and Magnanimity ſuitable to his high Rank. However, thoſe who had an Opportunity of examining narrowly into his Countenance, plainly ſaw the Diſquietudes of his Heart.

Whether this proceeded from the little Regard ſhewn to him all along by the Queen, or from ſome other private Cauſes, which he did not care to make public, no body could know from him: For he was ſo great a Maſter of his own Thoughts, that he never ſuffered any, even of his Favourites, to pry into his Secrets.

The Deſign of the Queen was to marry her Daughter to the Prince of *Braſil*, who was Heir to the Crown of *Portugal*. But foreſeeing that it was natural for the Court of *Liſbon* to procure an advantageous Match for the *Infanta* of *Portugal*, ſhe anticipated their Deſire, by propoſing the Prince of *Aſturias* to her. The *Spaniſh* Miniſter, who then reſided at the *Portugeſe* Court, was the Marquis of ———, an *Italian*, and conſequently one of the Queen's Creatures. He had Inſtructions ſent to him, after the Matter had been, for Form's Sake, examined in the Councils of

of *Madrid*, to make the firſt Overtures of this croſs Marriage, which he did, and were well received by the whole Court of *Portugal*. Orders were ſent at the ſame time, by his *Portugueſe* Majeſty, to his Miniſter at *Madrid*, to intimate the ſame to the Queen of *Spain*; that the King his Maſter would improve that, and all Opportunities, to ſettle a firm and laſting Union and Harmony between the two Nations, which nothing could more effectually accompliſh, than the Matches propoſed.

This Declaration highly pleaſed the Catholic Queen; for beſides the advantageous Marriage of her Daughter, of which ſhe made no longer any Doubt, ſhe likewiſe expected, in caſe of a War with the Emperor, which happened afterwards, that ſhe ſhould be ſo far able to influence the Court of *Liſbon*, as to ſend his Imperial Majeſty no Supplies of Money; a Thing which he commonly ſtood in need of. Yet in this Particular ſhe found herſelf miſtaken; for the generous King of *Portugal*, whoſe Queen was Siſter to the late Emperor *Charles* VI. and Aunt to the preſent Queen of *Hungary*, advanced conſiderable Sums to his Brother-in Law, as he did likewiſe to his Daughter in the preſent War, notwithſtanding all the Endeavours of the Queen of *Spain* to prevent him.

However, to return to our preſent Purpoſe, the Marquis *de los Balbazes* was appointed Ambaſſador Extraordinary by the Catholic King, and ſent to *Liſbon* to demand the *Infanta* of *Portugal* in Marriage for the Prince of *Aſturias*; and a *Portugueſe* Nobleman was ſent to the Court of *Madrid*, with the like Character, to demand the *Infanta* of *Spain* for the Prince of *Braſil*. As both Parties were very willing to agree to thoſe Demands, the Treaties relating thereto were ſoon concluded, and the Marriages celebrated, in which the two Ambaſſadors ſtood as Proxies for their Principals. The Ceremonies were performed on one and the ſame Day at both Courts, in the Beginning of *January* 1727-8, with extraordinary Magnificence; and the public Rejoicings continued for ſeveral Nights after. But the Exchange of Princeſſes was deferred for ſome Months; and was made at laſt between *Elvas* and *Badajos*, the two Frontier Garriſons of *Portugal* and *Spain*, on the Side of *Eſtremadura*.

The two Courts attended the Royal Bridegrooms and Brides on this Occaſion, and the grand Appearance they made may be more eaſily imagined than expreſſed. The *Portugueſe* Nobility and *Fidalgos* were all over bedawbed with rich Gold Laces, and wore an infinite

infinite Number of precious Stones, of immenſe Value, and ſtudied in every reſpect to out-do the *Spaniards*. The Court of *Madrid*, ſome time before, had prohibited the wearing of any wrought Gold or Silver; ſo that the Grandees, and the *Spaniſh* Ladies, together with the Gentlemen who waited on their Majeſties and the Princes, were all dreſſed in black Velvets and Silks, beſpangled with Diamonds and Pearls, which made ſo brilliant a Figure, and ſo adapted to the *Spaniſh* Gravity, that it ſeemed to reproach the Gaiety of the *Portugueſe* Court. Three Days were ſpent in Ceremonies, Viſits, and Feaſting, between the two Courts, and the Exchange of the Princeſſes being made, their *Catholic* and *Portugueſe* Majeſties took their Leaves of each other, as did all the Courtiers; and thus ended this Interview, than which nothing ever appeared more ſplendid in *Europe*, ſince that which *Henry* VIII. of *Great Britain* had with *Francis* I. of *France*.

We cannot add whether theſe Marriages were conſummated, while the Courts were upon the Frontiers of the two Kingdoms or not, but it ſeems as if Don *Ferdinando*, Prince of *Aſturias*, the preſent King of *Spain*, had never conſummated his Marriage; for it is moſt certain, that he never had any Children, and that

that the Court of *Spain* never took the leaſt Pains to make the World believe, that his Conſort had ſo much as miſcarried. No, no, the Queen wanted no ſuch Miſcarriages, nor Pregnancies. If ſhe got him a Wife, it was only to blind Mankind; his Job, as to a procreative Power, was done. *Donia Laura*, who was as cunning as any old Witch in *Europe*, had ſtudied the Effects of certain Herbs, which ſhe found *a propos* for a *Grand Deſign* which her *Miſtreſs* had in view. The Succeſſion to *Parma* and *Placentia*, and to the other States of *Italy*, which this ambitious Lady claimed for Don *Carlos*, her eldeſt Son, were always diſputed by the Houſe of *Auſtria*. But in caſe they had not, and that Don *Carlos* ſhould be put into the peaceable Poſſeſſion of thoſe States, at the Death of the late Dukes of *Tuſcany* and *Parma*, this would not have filled the Scope of her boundleſs Ambition: For having more Sons, one of whom ſhe ſettled for a Time in the Church, being thereto moved out of political Motives; and may with greater Eaſe take him out of that Settlement, if any Thing more agreeable to her *Genius* ſhould offer.

She therefore often lamented that King *Philip* had ever been married to any other but herſelf; and the ſecret Grief which lay at her Heart, at ſeeing ſo many Obſtacles between her Iſſue and

and the *Spaniſh* Monarchy, overwhelmed her. In theſe *Fits* ſhe was frequently comforted by her truſty *Laura*, who knew the Cauſe of all her Diſorders. But as two of thoſe Obſtacles had been already removed, that is, Don *Vendome* and the King Don *Lewis* I. *Laura* aſſured her, "That it would "not be ſafe to play the old Trick over "again, which had carried theſe Princes out "of the World: For that ſhe feared, not-"withſtanding, the whole Affair, on both "Occaſions, had been carried on with great "Secreſy, and no Diſcovery ever made; yet "many ſuſpected and ſaid, in private Diſ-"courſes, that thoſe two Princes had not fair "Play for their Lives. However, to pre-"vent any Jealouſies of the like Nature, for "the future, ſhe aſſured her Majeſty, that "without attacking Don *Ferdinando*'s Life, "ſhe had lately diſcovered a *Specific*, which "would prevent his having any Children, "and that ſhe could have it eaſily admini-"ſtered to him by Means of her own Daugh-"ter, who had, as ſhe believed, ſome Share "of Credit with the Prince, which would an-"ſwer her Majeſty's Deſire in every Reſpect, "though not immediately."

The Queen was extremely well pleaſed with this new Method, which her favourite Nurſe had diſcovered, of facilitating the Succeſſion

ceſſion to her Son, without taking away any more Lives, and reſolved, that whatever Dominions ſhould be allotted to Don *Carlos* in *Italy*, in the Interim, might be either annexed to the Crown of *Spain*, when her Son ſhould aſcend that Throne, or be given to her ſecond Son Don *Philip*, whom ſhe deſigned for King of *Lombardy*. She ordered *Laura* to loſe no Time in preparing the *Potion* for the Prince, and to have it preſented to him, under the ſpecious Pretence of ſomething more agreeable, by her beautiful Daughter; which was punctually executed, Don *Ferdinando*'s watchful Genius having on this important Occaſion left him to himſelf. All this was practiſed ſome Years before his Marriage with the *Infanta* of *Portugal*, ſo that it is not to be admired if he never had any Children.

Soon after the Treaty of *Seville*, Don *Carlos* was ſent to *Italy*, chiefly by the Means and Intereſt of *Great Britain*; which procured him likewiſe the Admittance of Six Thouſand *Spaniſh* Troops to guard him. The Depredations, notwithſtanding, committed on the *Britiſh* Trading Ships in the *Weſt-Indies*, did not ceaſe. On the contrary, it was carried on with greater Effrontery than ever. The Queen of *Spain* was ſo provoked at the Loſs of the *Spaniſh* Fleet, which Sir *George*

George Byng deſtroyed in the *Pharo* of *Meſſino* in 1718, to which ſhe imputed the Loſs of the Iſland of *Sicily*, the Conqueſt of which, ſhe was almoſt ſure of, that ſhe could never forgive the *Engliſh* that Check, which her Ambition ſo much deſerved, and ſo ſeaſonably received. And though the *Britiſh* Court favoured her future Deſigns in *Italy*, by concurring to the Settlement of her eldeſt Son in that Country, with the additional Title of *Grand Prince* of *Tuſcany*, yet all this could not make her vindictive Spirit, either eaſy to herſelf, or acknowledging to her Benefactors, for the Favours received from them.

The War that broke out between the Emperor and *France*, on account of King *Staniſlaus*'s Election to the Crown of *Poland*, which was thwarted in a little Time after, by the Election of the Duke of *Saxony* to the ſame Crown, furniſhed the Queen of *Spain* with a freſh Opportunity of making War anew againſt the Emperor in *Italy*. The Six Thouſand *Spaniards* that were admitted into that Country, as a Guard to the Grand Prince, ſoon ſwelled to double the Number, and was equal, if not ſuperior, to all the *German* Forces then in *Lombardy*. For the Emperor finding himſelf attacked by *France*, on the Side of *Fort Kelk* and *Philipſburg*, he was con-

conſtrained to draw the beſt Part of his Forces out of *Italy*, to reinforce his Army in the Empire, before he could apprehend any Danger from *Spain*, or the King of *Sardinia*.

The Twelve Thouſand *Spaniards* who were in *Tuſcany*, and the adjacent Places, were ſoon joined by powerful Reinforcements from *Barcelona* and *Alicant*; ſo that his Catholic Majeſty, or rather his Queen, in a very ſhort Space of Time, had a formidable Army in *Italy*, under the Command of the Count of *Montemar*. This General, finding nothing to oppoſe him, marched to *Naples*, leaving the Conqueſt of the *Milaneſe* to the King of *Sardinia*, who had joined his Forces to the *French* Army, which was commanded by the Generals *Broglio* and *Coigni*.

Monſieur *Montemar* continued his March into the Kingdom of *Naples*, without any Moleſtation till he came to an Eminence near *Bitonto*. Here the Imperial Army waited for him, and had all the Advantage of that high Ground, which they had fortified. The Battle began with great Fury, and laſted ſome Hours before the Imperialiſts would give way. They were at laſt compelled to retreat in Confuſion, and take their Flight towards *Bitonto*, a Place of no Strength, and only ſurrounded with

with an old Wall; the *Spaniards* took moſt of them Priſoners, particularly the Officers. The Victory was complete, and the City of *Naples*, with its Caſtles, fell afterwards into their Hands; but not before they had laid a formal Siege to each Caſtle, which are three in Number. *Gaeta* was the next Conqueſt, and this completed that of the Kingdom of *Naples*.

In the mean time, the *French* and *Piedmonteſe* had taken the ſtrong Citadel of *Milan*, fought two Battles with the *Germans*, in which the latter were as often routed; and at laſt driven quite out of *Italy*. They thought, that encamping in the *Venetian* Territories would ſave them from being purſued; that being a neutral Country: However, when the Count of *Montemar* came from *Naples*, with the *Spaniſh* Army, in order to have the chiefeſt Share in the Reduction of *Mantua*, according to his Miſtreſs's Directions, he followed the *Germans* into that Republic, on whoſe Approach they were obliged to retreat to the *Tyroleſe*.

Mantua may well be called the Citadel of *Italy* for Strength, both by Nature and Art. It is ſituated in the Middle of a deep Moraſs, and is acceſſible only on one Side, and that by a Cauſeway which leads through the Moraſs

Moraſs to the Gate. Great Preparations were made for the Siege of this Place, which, according to the Opinion of the moſt Judicious, would laſt near ſix Months, and particularly by the *Spaniſh* General, who propoſed no leſs than to have the Honour of taking it, without the Aſſiſtance of any other Troops, but thoſe under his own Command. All Manner of Materials were getting ready to fill up the Moraſs, that Batteries might be raiſed near enough to fire at the City, and to throw Bombs into it. *Mantua* had a numerous Garriſon, and was well provided with all Sorts of warlike Stores and Proviſions, and a Governor who was reſolved to hold out to the laſt Extremity.

The Queen of *Spain*, however, not being able to forget her old Game, began now to play off one of her Maſter-Pieces of Politics. She concluded herſelf already no leſs than Miſtreſs of all *Italy*, and reckoned that *Mantua*, after the Retreat of the *German* Army, was as good as in her own Hands. Fluſhed with this Succeſs, ſhe diſpatched an *Italian Abbé* privately to the Court of *Vienna*, with Credentials and full Powers to treat of, and ſettle a Peace with that Court, and a Marriage Treaty between the eldeſt of the young Arch-Dutcheſſes, which is the Reigning Queen

Queen of *Hungary*, and Don *Carlos*, *Infant* of *Spain*. This *Abbé* made all the Expedition he could on, his Journey, and having arrived at the Imperial Court, he intimated his coming with Credentials and a ſecret Commiſſion, to one of the Emperor's Principal Secretaries of State, with whom he had a ſhort Conference the ſame Day, in which he laid before him the Motives that induced the Catholic Court, that is, the Queen his Miſtreſs, to ſend him on an Embaſſy to their Imperial Majeſties, of all which the Court of *France* was to be kept in the dark.

The Secretary, when the Conference was over, waited on the Emperor, and told him of this Miniſter's Arrival, and of the Buſineſs with which he was charged. The Emperor, who had always deſigned his eldeſt Daughter for the Duke of *Lorrain*, was not a little ſurprized that the Queen of *Spain* ſhould ſend to make ſuch an Overture to him; but as the Matter was not laid before the Court in Form, by the *Spaniſh* Miniſter, who expected to be admitted to an Audience of his Imperial Majeſty, wherein he ſhould execute that Part of his Commiſſion, the Emperor, in order to play a counter Part, which would not pleaſe the Queen of *Spain*,

feigned that he was indiſpoſed for two or three Days.

In this Interval, it was conſulted how to out-wit the *Catholic Queen*, and recover, without any Blood-ſhed, what had been loſt in *Italy*. The *Abbé* was admitted, in a few Days, to an Audience of *Charles* VI. in which, as the Negotiation was to be carried on with great Secreſy, little or no Ceremony was uſed, to prevent any Diſcovery, as was pretended. The *Abbé* preſented his Letters of Credence, and acquainted his Imperial Majeſty with the Commiſſion the Queen of *Spain* had charged him to execute, as already mentioned, and deſired a ſpeedy Anſwer. To which he was told, " That the Nature " of his Buſineſs required ſome Time to con- " ſider of it. That though the *Germans* had " abandoned *Italy*, yet Fortune, it was to be " hoped, would be more favourable to them " on the *Rhine*, ſince the *French* had declined " coming to a general Engagement with them " there, and were retiring towards the Elec- " torate of *Triers* with Precipitation, which " however, they could not be able to do, be- " fore they were overtaken by the Imperial " Forces; and that it was not doubted but the " *French* would be very ſeverely treated, and " brought to equitable Terms, which would

" put

" put the Houſe of *Auſtria* in a Condition of
" coming to a final Reſolution, with reſpect
" to the Marriage propoſed."

With this evaſive Anſwer the *Abbé* returned to his Lodgings, but not well pleaſed with it, nor with the Audience. The Miniſters of the Court of *Vienna*, who were made privy to the Affair, received Orders to communicate the whole to the Duke of *Lorrain*; and to engage him to ſend an Account thereof to his Miniſter at *Paris*, with Inſtructions to lay this new Intrigue of the Queen of *Spain*'s, before his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, and his Miniſtry; that they might ſee how far they might depend upon their faithful Ally, the Catholic Queen. When his Royal Highneſs was informed of the Tranſaction, he was filled with Indignation againſt the Author of a Scheme, which aimed at nothing leſs than the depriving himſelf of all future Happineſs in this World; and, on the other hand, appeared highly pleaſed with the Sincerity and Integrity of the Imperial Court towards him, to whom he immediately made an Offer of ſacrificing every Thing he had in his Poſſeſſion, to procure an honourable Peace between the Imperial Court and *France*.

The Duke diſpatched a Courier, at the ſame time, to *Paris*, with an Account of the Me-

thod made uſe of by the Queen of *Spain*, to negotiate a Marriage with the Eldeſt of *Charles* the VIth's Daughters, to his own Prejudice, as well as that of *France*, without whoſe Privity, or Conſent, ſhe imagined to bring this Affair to bear, contrary to the public Faith of Treaties, particularly that concluded between their moſt Chriſtian and Catholic Majeſties, for carrying on the War in which they were then engaged. The News of this Project was received with as much, or rather more Surprize at the Court of *Verſailles*, than at *Vienna*. But as there was no room left for ſuſpecting the Truth of it, on the contrary, it ſhewed a lively Picture of the Queen of *Spain*'s Genius, the Court of *France* came to a Reſolution to improve this Advance, made by the Duke of *Lorrain*, into an advantageous Peace for themſelves.

Agreeable thereto, a Plan of Accommodation was drawn up and ſent to *Vienna*, the principal Article of which was, to ſettle the Duke of *Lorrain*, and his Heirs for ever, in the peaceable Poſſeſſion of the Grand Dutchy of *Tuſcany*, and its Dependancies, provided he would yield up *Lorrain* and *Bar* to the Crown of *France*; that all the Conqueſts made in *Italy*, except *Naples* and *Sicily*, ſhould

ſhould be reſtored to the Houſe of *Auſtria*, together with *Parma* and *Placentia*; and that the extenſive Deſigns of the Queen of *Spain*, on that Country, ſhould be confined to *Sicily* and *Naples*. This Plan was approved of without any Difficulty or Objection, in which it was likewiſe ſtipulated, that the King of *Sardinia* ſhould be diſcharged from the *Ban* of the Empire, under which he had been put, for having ſo tenaciouſly adhered to the Intereſt of *France* and *Spain*, in that War, with ſome other trifling Acknowledgements, ſcarce worth mentioning. Don *Carlos* was, by the ſame Treaty, ſettled in the Kingdoms of *Naples* and *Sicily*.

This Treaty was publiſhed without any further Ceremony, both at *Vienna* and *Verſailles*, before the Catholic Court knew that it had been ſet on foot; and daily expected to hear of their own Miniſter's Succeſs, when the News of a Peace deprived them of all Hopes. The *Italian Abbé*, who all this while waited for a ſecond Audience from the Emperor, finding his Miſtreſs and himſelf duped, ſet out for *Madrid*, without taking his Leave of their Imperial Majeſties, or waiting to be recalled. All *Italy* was evacuated, except what had been ceded to Don *Carlos*; and the ambitious Queen was compelled to content herſelf with what had been thus carried

on, much againſt her Expectations and Inclinations, becauſe ſhe could not prevail in the Cabinet of the Emperor, or in the Field.

Theſe are Events brought about by Providence, which delights in Peace, and to check the Ambitious. As *Charles* VI. had never a Son, the Queen of *Spain* foreſaw that the Imperial Crown muſt, on his Demiſe, come to another Family; and by marrying her Son, Don *Carlos*, to the eldeſt of his Daughters, though contrary to the Conſtitution of the Empire, and the *Golden Bull*, (whereby it is ordained, that none but a Prince, born and educated in *Germany*, ſhall be raiſed to the Dignity of Emperor,) yet ſhe doubted not, but by the Aſſiſtance of *Spaniſh Gold*, ſhe might remove all thoſe Difficulties, and get her Son choſen Emperor, if ſhe could procure ſuch a Match for him, which, in time, would bring the Imperial Crown and that of *Spain* once more on one Head, as they had been in the Days of the Emperor *Charles* V. But the Circumſtances of the *Auſtrian* Affairs, which obliged that Houſe to yield up *Lorrain* to *France*, defeated, without any Struggle, the Project formed by her Catholic Majeſty, on the Empire: And the King of *Sardinia*, who was to have had a large Share allotted him, out of the Conqueſt of *Italy*,

was

was obliged to content himſelf with the Loſs of Part of his Army, which died both in Battles and Sieges, during the Courſe of the War, and with the Expence he was at, in carrying of it on, without any Subſidy; which has made him, ever ſince, cautious of entering into any Engagements with the Crowns of *France* or *Spain*.

Peace being thus ſurprizingly reſtored once more to *Europe*, in the Year 1735, the *Spaniſh* Depredations in the *Weſt-Indies*, on the Merchants of *Great Britain*, were carried on with more Boldneſs than ever. The Number of the *Guarda Coſtas* was greatly increaſed, and ſeemed to bid Defiance to all the Endeavours of the *Britiſh* Merchants, to put a Stop to their illegal Procedures. The Court of *Spain* could never forgive the Loſs of their Fleet, which had been deſtroyed by Sir *George Byng* in the *Pharo* of *Meſſina*: And the Queen uſed all the Artifices ſhe could, to diſtreſs the Trade of theſe Kingdoms, ever ſince that Time, which proved a fatal Period to ſome of our Merchants, as appeared by the many Complaints exhibited againſt the *Spaniards*, on that Account. Application was made ſeveral Times to Parliament by the Sufferers; Commiſſaries were appointed to go to *Seville*, to adjuſt their Claims; and a *Convention* was at laſt agreed upon, wherein

a certain Sum was promiſed by *Spain*, to make good the Loſs of the Complainants.

The Catholic Court, at the ſame time, made a Demand of ſome Thouſands of Pounds on the *South Sea* Company, on account of the *Aſſiento Contract*, which was not allowed of by the latter. The *Spaniſh* Miniſtry, though they had fixed on a Day for the Payment of the Sum ſtipulated for the *Engliſh* Merchants, who had ſuffered by the Depredations, yet they had tacked a Proteſt to the *Convention*, againſt paying that Sum, unleſs the *South Sea* Company would firſt comply with their Demands on them. But this being refuſed, the *Spaniards* would not pay what they had agreed upon, when the appointed Day came.

The *Britiſh* Nation was very much provoked at this Treatment, inſomuch, that in the Summer 1739, his Majeſty granted Letters of *Marque* and *Repriſal* to his Subjects, againſt thoſe of *Spain*; and in *October* following War was proclaimed againſt the *Spaniards*, which was not confined to *Europe*, but was carried to the *Weſt-Indies*; and even round the World, to the Advantage of the *Britiſh* Arms.

Towards the Cloſe of the Year 1740, *Charles* the VIth, Emperor of *Germany*, after a ſhort

a ſhort Illneſs, died at *Vienna*. His Death raiſed new Broils, and at laſt kindled a general War in *Europe*. The Elector of *Bavaria*, on this Occaſion, declared himſelf a Candidate for the Imperial Crown. The Eldeſt of the late Emperor's Daughters, who had ſucceeded to her Father's hereditary Dominions, by the Title of Queen of *Hungaria*, &c. was at that Time not only married to the Duke of *Lorrain*, Grand Duke of *Tuſcany*, but likewiſe within a few Months of her Time, and eagerly deſired to have her Huſband choſen Head of the Empire.

The late Emperor, not thinking that Death was ſo near him, neglected to appoint his Son-in-Law, King of the *Romans*, in hopes that his Daughter would be brought to Bed of a Son, on which he intended to confer that Title; in virtue of which the young Prince ought to be acknowledged as Emperor by the Princes Electors, on his Grandfather's Demiſe. But being carried off, as already obſerved, not only the Electors, but any other *German* Prince, might offer himſelf a Candidate to the Imperial Diadem, when there was no King of the *Romans* elected, or appointed.

As the Elector of *Bavaria* was always one of the Creatures of *France*, it was her Intereſt to ſupport him, with all her Power and Riches, in his Views. Every Body knows the Part *Pruſſia* acted on this Occaſion;

ſion; therefore we ſhall not recite it here: The *French* invaded *Germany*, and had their Favourite choſen Emperor, partly by Force, and partly by Intrigue. The new Emperor, however, had not a Day's Peace; he was driven twice out of his Capital, and his whole Electorate laid waſte: And at laſt, being involved in a bloody and deſtructive War, it is thought that he died of Grief.

France had acted all this while as an Ally; but finding that the young Elector would not follow his Father's Maxims in Politics, ſhe pulled off the Maſk ſhe had all along affected to wear, and declared War againſt the King of *England*, who had warmly and heartily eſpouſed the *Auſtrian* Intereſt, and furniſhed large Sums of Money, as well as a numerous Army to ſupport the Queen of *Hungaria*; but not without the repeated Approbation of the *Britiſh* Parliament, and the Nation in general, which concurred with Alacrity in his Majeſty's Meaſures.

It was not *France* and *Pruſſia* only that diſtreſſed the *Hungarian* Queen, on her Father's Demiſe: For the Queen of *Spain* ſeeing her attacked in the Empire by ſuch powerful Princes, ſhe laid hold of the Opportunity that offered, and invaded *Italy* for the third

third Time, ſince ſhe became Queen of *Spain*. Don *Carlos* joined his Forces to thoſe of the Queen his Mother: The Duke of *Montemar*, who had commanded the *Spaniſh* Forces in that Country, in 1734 and 1735, with Succeſs, was once more honoured with the like Commiſſion, and nothing leſs than the Conqueſt of *Italy* was expected from ſo great a General. The *Auſtrian* Affairs, at this Time, bore a very bad Aſpect, both in *Germany* and in *Italy*: The Queen of *Hungaria* could not raiſe Forces ſufficient to make head againſt her Enemies, for want of Money. In this deſponding Condition ſhe applyed to *Great Britain*, the antient Ally of her Family. The *Britiſh* Court anſwered her Expectations in every Reſpect; the Squadron of Men of War ſent to the *Mediterranean*, defeated the Queen of *Spain*'s Deſigns on *Italy*; and *Montemar*'s Army dwindled to nothing. The Kingdom of *Naples* narrowly eſcaped from falling again into the Hands of the Houſe of *Auſtria*. But as *Elizabeth Farneſio*'s Reign is now at an End, and both the *French* and *Spaniards* have been driven out *Italy*, it is not to be queſtioned, (as the new Catholic King has all along declared,) that he would make the old *Spaniſh* Principles his Rule of Government; and that he would liſten to no other Counſellors, but ſuch as were of that Nation, if any Streſs may be laid on the Diſpoſitions already ſhewn by the

the *Spaniards*, and the Reſentment they diſcovered, when Don *Carlos* was ſettled in *Naples* and *Sicily*, which they alledged had formerly belonged to the Catholic Monarchy; and inſtead of eſtabliſhing Don *Carlos* in the Poſſeſſion of thoſe Kingdoms, at the Expence of *Spaniſh* Valour and Treaſure, that they ought to revert to the Crown, whoſe Conqueſts they were.

As the Queen of *Spain*, together with her *Italian* Faction, are, at preſent, ſunk to the *Nadir* of their Power and Ambition, and without any Hopes of ever re-aſcending in this Reign, or getting into any Share of Credit with Don *Ferdinando*; what could be more to the Credit of the *Spaniſh* Nation, or that could contribute more to the aggrandizing of that Kingdom ſo much, as to purſue thoſe Principles, to which they appeared ſo greatly inclined of late Years; that is, of calling Don *Carlos* home, and of re-uniting *Naples* and *Sicily* to the *Spaniſh* Monarchy, which would reſtore Peace, not only to *Italy* and *Spain*, but conſequently to all *Europe*; and remove that Bone of Contention, which otherwiſe muſt kindle perpetual Ruptures and Wars, in which the Powers of *Chriſtendom* muſt be involved. Since it is believed, on all hands, that the new King of *Spain* can never have any Iſſue, there is nothing more

reaſon-

reaſonable, than that Don *Carlos* ſhould wait with Patience, till the Crown of *Spain* ſhould devolve upon him, by a legal Right of Succeſſion, and not act the Incendiary, by keeping a ſtrong Army, ready to attack any Prince in *Italy*, at his Mother's Beck.

If, at this Juncture, *Spain* ſhould not be actuated with the Principles diſcovered by Don *Ferdinando*'s Party, in his Father's Reign, ſure the Powers of *Europe* may and ought to oblige her to it, before the Concluſion of a Peace with the Catholic King. During the late unnatural Rebellion, raiſed in *England*, by the wicked Artifices of *France*, the Queen of *Spain* contributed to ſupport the Rebels, with Money and Arms; and would as willingly overturn this Government as the *French*, and as heartily concur to it, had ſhe not too much Work cut out for her in *Italy*. But as all her Efforts have proved ineffectual, both here and there, it is preſumed that the *Britiſh* Nation ought readily to come into the Scheme of bringing Don *Carlos* home, in which they would undoubtedly oblige the *Spaniſh* Monarch and his Subjects, and effectually return the Compliment to the Queen Dowager.

The Diſputes ſubſiſting between this and the *Spaniſh* Nation relates to Property, in which both complain of being aggrieved.

The

the *Spaniards* pretend, that the *Britiſh* Merchants carry on a Clandeſtine Trade in the *Weſt Indies*, contrary to the public Faith of Treaties, which give them a Right to ſearch all *Engliſh* Ships, in thoſe Parts. The Merchants loudly cry againſt ſuch Searches, and deny the Charge. But as this is a knotty Affair, in which, in order to bring about an Accommodation between the two Nations, we believe that ſome Conceſſions muſt be made by both Parties, and wiſh that the ſending of Don *Carlos* back again, may be ſtipulated on the Part of *Britain*.

As for the Queen of *Spain*, whoſe Conduct has induced us to write theſe her Memoirs, we cannot be convinced that ſhe deſigns to ſpend the Remainder of her Days in Acts of Piety and Devotion, to recommend her to eternal Felicity; therefore, common Prudence requires, that the *Britiſh* Court ſhould inſiſt on her being ſhut up in a Convent for Life, as the Laws of *Spain* direct for Royal Widows to do; or that ſhe may be allowed to retire into the Mountains of *Siberia*, to keep Company with thoſe great and ambitious Perſons ſent thither by the Court of *Ruſſia*, for attempting to ſubvert the Right of Succeſſion in that Empire.

The extraordinary Paſſion for governing, which

which the Queen of *Spain* diſcovered, ever ſince ſhe was married to *Philip* the Vth, may excite the Curioſity of our Readers to know how *ſhe* ſhould be ſo ambitious, who was born a Feudatory to the Houſe of *Auſtria*; and to the *Holy See?* Several political Reaſons might be aſſigned here, for the Queen's ſingular Conduct; but as theſe Reaſons are already taken notice of in the Courſe of this Hiſtory, we ſhall not repeat them, but proceed to ſhew that this *Genius* has been inherited by the Princeſs *Farneſio*, who is deſcended in a direct, though illegitimate, Line from the Emperor *Charles* V.

*Charles**, while Count of *Flanders*, made a Tour through the different Provinces of the *Low Countries*, and coming to *Oudenard*, he there ſtaid a Day or two. In this Time a Grand Ball was given by the firſt Quality of the Place, to which the Prince was invited. *Charles* accepted of the Invitation, but ſaw nothing ſo agreeable at the Ball, as a young Lady, which engaged his whole Attention. The Count of *Flanders* could not help, at laſt, being laviſh in his Praiſes of her, and that in the hearing of the Nobility who accompanied him.

One

* Vid. *Strada*, T. I. *de Bello Belgico.*

One of *Charles*'s Attendants, and of that Sort of Courtiers, who have Acceſs to Princes, only by criminal and infamous Services, finding by his Maſter's Diſcourſe, that the young Lady had made a tender Impreſſion on the Prince's Heart, by the Favour of the Night, carried her off without any Reſiſtance, and conducted her to *Charles*'s Bed-Chamber, where having ſpent the Night in Raptures with the Prince, ſhe conceived, and in about nine Months after, was delivered of a Daughter.

This Young Lady's Name, was *Margaret Vangeſte*, Daughter of *John Vangeſte*, of *Oudenard*, and of *Mary Coquambe*, his Wife; who were very conſiderable among the Nobility of the *Low Countries*: But being dead of the Plague, the Count *de Hocſtrate*, having had a particular Regard for the deceaſed Couple, received their Daughter into his own Family; and *Elizabeth Culembourgh*, his Wife, took as much Care of her Education, as if ſhe had been her own Child: It was along with the Counteſs of *Hoeſtrate* that *Margaret* went to the Ball, where ſhe learnt, how difficult a Taſk it was for her to unveil her Beauty, without expoſing her Modeſty; or to guard her Chaſtity againſt the Paſſion of a powerful and amorous Prince.

The

The Infant was chriſtened by the Name of *Margaret* alſo, and committed to the Care of *Charles*'s Aunt, who governed the *Low Countries* for him at that Time. Young *Margaret* was there taken care of till ſhe was eight Years old; and then, by the Death of the Governeſs, was placed with *Mary*, *Charles*'s Siſter; who, being Queen Dowager of *Hungaria*, was called by her Brother to the Government of *Flanders*.

Margaret ſtudied ſo well the Qualities of her Aunt, that as ſhe propoſed nothing more to herſelf, than to copy after her, ſhe ſhewed that ſhe not only had the Virtues which rendered that Princeſs admired, both in private and public Life, but alſo her Sentiments, Inclinations, and even her Cuſtoms and Gravity. At the Age of Eleven, ſhe was married to *Alexander de Medicis*, in the City of *Naples*, where *Charles* V. ſpared nothing that might contribute to the public Rejoicings made on that Occaſion. The Prince of *Tuſcany* returned with his Conſort, ſoon after this Ceremony was over, to *Florence*, where they were received with great Pomp and Magnificence, and the Rejoicing for the Marriage, renewed: In the Height of which, the Sun was all of a ſudden eclipſed. This Incident was taken for a bad Omen by a great many, particularly by thoſe who could

not look, but with Horror, on the State of the *Florentines*, and ardently desiring a Change of Government, compared the Defection of the Light to the Fortune of their new Prince, which, they hoped, was soon to be at an End.

They were not deceived in their Conjectures; for *Alexander* was grown so excessively amorous and ambitious, after his Alliance with the Emperor, that though he had escaped many an Ambush, he was assassinated, at last, in the Pursuit of his unlawful Pleasures, before the Expiration of the first Year of his Marriage.

Margaret was afterwards married to *Octavio Farnesio*, Prince of *Parma*, though he was but in the thirteenth Year of his Age. The present Queen Dowager of *Spain* descends, in a direct Line, from this *Octavio* and *Margaret*, who was Governess of *Flanders*, when the *Dutch* revolted against *Spain*. She did not approve of the second Match, and slighted a Husband who was not yet of Age. *Octavio* finding himself slighted by his Consort, though he could not tell why, went as a Volunteer with the Emperor, against *Algiers*: But this Expedition proving unsuccessful, he returned to *Italy* along with the Army, and remained with them for the Space of two Years, without ever going to see *Margaret*.

By

By this Time *Octavio* was become more amiable, and when he returned to *Parma*, it is difficult to ſay with how much Tenderneſs he was received and careſſed, by his Conſort.

By a ſingular good Fortune, ſhe was, ſoon after, delivered of Male Twins, and at the ſame Time ſhe ſaw her Power and Wealth increaſe, by the Addition of the Principalities of *Parma* and *Placentia*, to which *Octavio* ſucceeded at his Father's Death, which then happened. Her Love afterwards for her Huſband, was proportioned to the Satisfaction ſhe received from thoſe double Advantages that fell to her at once; but being ambitious of governing, ſhe could not bear that the Authority ſhould be divided between her and her Huſband. And to put an End to the Diſputes which frequently aroſe between her and the Duke, *Philip* II. of *Spain*, who was her Half-Brother, appointed her Governeſs of the *Low Countries*; where ſhe and Cardinal *Granvelle*, her Prime Miniſter, irritated the Inhabitants of the *Netherlands* to ſuch a Degree, that they, at laſt, flew to Arms, as the only Means to ſhake off the *Spaniſh* Yoke.

Whether *Margaret* of *Parma* was more hated by the Subjects of the *Low Countries*, or the Queen of *Spain*, her Deſcendant, by thoſe

thoſe ſhe governed while Queen, we cannot pretend to ſay; though we believe her Maxims of *Spain*, would, in a little Time, be as deſtructive to the *Spaniſh* Monarchy, as thoſe of the former were to the *Netherlands*; yet Providence ſeems to have interpoſed in Favour of *Spain*, on the Death of *Philip* V. by wreſting the Reins of Government out of *Elizabeth Farneſio*'s Hands, which could not otherwiſe be effected, whilſt that King lived, and giving of them to Don *Ferdinando* VI. who ſeems greatly inclined to Peace, for the Good of his Subjects, and to be fond of the old *Spaniſh* Obſervation, which recommends Peace with *England*, preferable to all other Nations. *Con todo el Mundo Guerra, y Paz con Ingalaterra.* The happy Conſequences of which will tend to make both Nations flouriſh, after an expenſive and ruinous War, to the *Spaniards*, to obtain the Ends of an ambitious Queen, who ſeems to have inherited not only all the Paſſions of *Margaret* of *Parma*, but alſo of the Emperor *Charles* V. particularly their Deſire of Governing.

F I N I S.